

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: SAFETY CHECKS

C-0450

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE: Title 15, Section 1027.5; DBPPM A-1050, C-200, P200; C-575, PREA §115.13, §115.15

POLICY

To ensure all incarcerated people's well-being and safety and preserve facility security, Deputies assigned to facility housing units will conduct direct visual safety checks of incarcerated people housed in pods, modules, dorms, or barracks at least once every hour. At least one deputy or detention deputy must be on duty at all times in any Kern County Sheriff's Office detention facility when a person is in custody. The deputy or detention officer must be immediately available and accessible to incarcerated people in case of an emergency. The deputy or detention deputy duties shall not interfere with their ability to supervise and respond to emergencies as needed. At least one female deputy or female detention deputy must be immediately available and accessible whenever one or more females are in the custody of the Kern County Sheriff's Office.

Direct visual safety checks of incarcerated people housed on decks, tiers, infirmary cells, or holding cells will be conducted at least twice every hour. Safety checks shall occur at random or varying intervals. This policy is intended to enhance the Title 15 guidelines for hourly safety checks. The intent of a safety check is to:

- Account for the presence of the incarcerated person(s), identify if anything appears out of order and look for signs of observable distress or trauma. This includes looking for indications that the incarcerated person may be ill, injured, involved in an altercation, has attempted suicide or otherwise is in need of assistance and;
- Discover any violation of criminal law or facility rules, damage, contraband or any other hazards that might compromise the safety and security of the facility, such as fire hazards.

- If a facility rule violation is discovered during a safety check the housing deputy will address the issue in accordance with DBPPM I-100 Incarcerated Person Discipline.
- If search/integrity check is done follow DBPPM C-575.

Incarcerated people under constant direct visual observation do not require independent safety checks. Incarcerated people locked down, or who are not under direct visual observation will be checked as outlined in this procedure unless the situation requires more frequent checks as outlined in this manual or due to special circumstances.

DEFINITION(S):

Safety Check: Entry into a housing unit by a deputy, during which the deputy makes direct visual observation of the housing unit and all incarcerated people within the housing unit.

Note: Direct visual observation as used in this policy does not include audio, or closed-circuit television monitoring.

DIRECTIVE #1:

All safety checks will be logged in the station logbook. The deputy conducting the safety check shall write their initials next to every safety check. The safety check will be logged at the beginning of the check or prior to entering the unit.

DIRECTIVE #2:

If circumstances within the facility lead to a delayed or missed safety check, the housing deputy will note the reason for the delay or missed check in the station logbook and notify the shift supervisor as soon as possible.

DIRECTIVE #3:

Staff entering an opposite gender housing area to conduct a safety check (e.g., male deputy entering female housing area, or female deputy entering male housing area) will announce their presence prior to making entry. The gender announcement will be documented when logging the safety check.

DIRECTIVE #4:

Supervisors will make unannounced supervisory checks of each post during each shift. These checks are to ensure the proper documentation of safety checks. Supervisors will check for inconsistent documentation or the untimely completion of safety checks. The supervisory checks will be documented in the station logbook. When a supervisor is notified of a late check, the supervisor shall confirm that the explanation is documented,

and the supervisor shall enter their initials and CAD ID# next to the documented time. If staff notify supervisors that they encounter circumstances that will prevent them from completing a check, supervisors will make arrangements to have a check completed as soon as practical.

Procedure A: Safety Checks – Pods and Modules

Safety checks of pods and modules will be conducted a minimum of at least once per hour at random intervals, not to exceed 60 minutes between checks.

The Control Room Staff will:

- Open the housing unit door to allow the floor deputy to enter and conduct a safety check;
- Maintain visual observation of the floor deputy in the unit during the safety check;
- Activate the cell intercoms for monitoring in each cell when the floor deputy enters a cell;
- Call the floor deputy for assistance as needed.

The Housing Deputy will:

- Log the safety check in the station logbook;
- Enter each housing unit in the pod or module and conduct a safety check of each incarcerated person.

Procedure B: Safety Checks - Dorms

Safety checks of dorms will be conducted a minimum of at least once per hour at random intervals, not to exceed 60 minutes between checks.

The Dorm Deputy will:

- Obtain the assistance of a second deputy for security purposes;
- Log the time of the safety check in the logbook;
- Enter the dorm and conduct a safety check of each incarcerated person.

The Security Deputy will:

- Remain at the doorway of the dorm while the dorm deputy completes the safety check;

- Be attentive to the safety of the dorm deputy;
- Call for assistance if needed by the dorm deputy.

Procedure C: Safety Checks - Barracks

Safety checks of barracks will be conducted a minimum of at least once per hour at random intervals, not to exceed 60 minutes between checks.

The Barracks Deputy will:

- Notify the Female Minimum Duty Office which barracks they are entering via handheld radio prior to entering the barracks;
- Enter the barracks and conduct a safety check of each incarcerated person.

The Female Minimum Duty Deputy will:

- Log the call sign, barracks number, and time of each safety check called in;
- Confirm the safety check by repeating the barracks deputy's call sign and barracks location via radio.

Procedure D: Safety Checks of Decks or Tiers

Safety checks of decks or tiers will be conducted a minimum of at least twice per hour at random intervals, not to exceed 30 minutes between checks.

The Housing Deputy will:

- Walk their assigned post frequently, but a minimum of at least twice per hour;
- Log the safety check in the station logbook;
- Conduct a safety check of each incarcerated person in the housing unit or cell;
- Closely observe all incarcerated people in each housing unit or cell, being alert for any activity which outlined in the definition of safety check

Procedure E: Safety Checks of Infirmary Cells

Safety checks of infirmary cells will be conducted a minimum of at least twice per hour at random intervals, not to exceed 30 minutes between checks.

Incarcerated people housed in the infirmary for purposes of suicide watch will be monitored as outlined in DBPPM C-200: Suicide Watch.

The Infirmary Deputy will:

- Log the safety check in the station logbook;
- Conduct a safety check of each incarcerated people in each infirmary cell.

Procedure F: Safety Checks of Temporary Holding Cells

Staff identified in facility post orders as being responsible for the supervision of temporary holding cells and court holding will ensure that while in use, the temporary holding cells and court holding are checked at least twice per hour at random intervals, not to exceed 30 minutes between checks.

The Designated Deputy will:

- Log the safety check in the station logbook;
- Conduct a safety check of each incarcerated person in each holding cell.