

Fire Safety

404.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The threat of fire and toxic smoke in the facility represents a significant risk to the safety and security of the community, the staff, inmates, volunteers, contractors, and visitors. The purpose of this policy is to clearly identify and conform to applicable federal, state, and/or local fire safety codes, and to establish a process of creating, disseminating, and training all individuals in the facility on the emergency plans for fire safety and evacuation.

404.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that fire prevention strategies are a high priority.

The Captain shall ensure that a fire alarm and detection and suppression system, as required by law, are installed, maintained, and periodically tested. Any variance, exception, or equivalency issues must be approved by the fire jurisdiction authorities and must not constitute a serious life-safety threat to the occupants of the facility (15 CCR 1029(a)(7)(A); 15 CCR 1032 et seq.).

404.2.1 FIRE CODES

The Office shall conform to all federal, state, and local fire safety codes.

404.2.2 FIRE PREVENTION RESPONSIBILITY

All staff, volunteers, and contractors who work in the facility are responsible for the prevention of fires. They should be trained and given the tools to carry out the tasks necessary to reduce the risk of fire.

404.3 FIRE OFFICER

FIRE OFFICER - The ranking fire department officer at the scene during a major fire at this facility.

404.4 FIRE SUPPRESSION PRE-PLANNING

Pursuant to Penal Code § 6031.1, the Captain shall, in cooperation with the local fire department or other qualified entity, develop a plan for responding to a fire. The plan shall include but is not limited to (15 CCR 1032):

- (a) A fire suppression pre-plan by the local fire department, to be included as part of this policy.
- (b) Fire prevention, safety inspection plans, and record retention schedules developed by designated staff or as required by applicable law.
- (c) Fire prevention inspections as required by Health and Safety Code § 13146.1(a) and (b), which requires inspections at least once every two years.
- (d) Documentation of all fire prevention inspections, all orders to correct, and all proofs of correction should be maintained for a minimum of two years or as otherwise required by law.
- (e) An evacuation plan (see the Evacuation Policy).

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- (f) A plan for the emergency housing of inmates in case of fire.
- (g) A plan for the cross-training of responders and facility staff via drills, which should occur at least quarterly, if practicable.

404.5 FIRE PREVENTION EQUIPMENT

All required fire alarms, sprinklers, and detection devices shall be in good working order at all times.

Should such a device become inoperative, the Captain or the authorized designee shall be responsible for ensuring that emergency repairs are undertaken as soon as possible and that staff is provided with an alternative emergency fire safety and evacuation plan.

Any time any fire prevention system is inoperative and poses a serious life-safety risk, that portion of the facility shall not be inhabited by inmates or staff.

404.6 FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT

The Captain shall ensure that the facility is equipped with the necessary firefighting equipment (e.g., fire hoses, extinguishers) in an amount and in a location as recommended by the local fire authority or other qualified entity. The locations of firefighting equipment will be shown on the facility fire plan (schematic).

While the staff is not trained as fully qualified firefighters, the Captain or the authorized designee will ensure that the staff is trained to initially respond to a fire with the purpose of facilitating the safety of the occupants, including evacuation, if necessary.

404.6.1 SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS

The facility should maintain sufficient quantities of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for staff to initially respond to a fire with the purpose of facilitating the safety of the occupants, including evacuation, if necessary. The Captain or the authorized designee is responsible for developing and implementing a written respiratory protection program that includes fit testing and training.

404.7 FIRE TRAINING

The Training Sergeant is responsible for ensuring that within the first six months of assignment to the facility all staff members receive training on the use of the SCBA sufficient to demonstrate proficiency. The staff should also be trained in the use of the facility's firefighting equipment sufficient to demonstrate proficiency. The staff should receive refresher training at least annually on the use of firefighting equipment.

Each shift will have at least one designated staff member who is trained to maintain the facility's firefighting equipment, including the SCBA.

404.8 INSPECTIONS

The Office shall be inspected by an appointed staff member who is qualified to perform fire and safety inspections on a monthly basis to ensure that fire safety standards are maintained. These

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inspections will be focused on, but not limited to, fire prevention, staff training and proficiency, firefighting equipment availability and functionality, alarms, fire detectors, fire safety equipment, and staff familiarity with prevention and suppression techniques, suppression pre-planning, SCBA use, emergency response, fire safety equipment use, and the evacuation plan.

The Captain or the authorized designee shall ensure that staff conduct weekly fire and safety inspections of the facility and that all fire safety equipment is tested at least quarterly (15 CCR 1029(a)(7)(E)).

A staff member shall be assigned to coordinate with local or state fire officials for the inspections as required once every two years, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 13146.1(a); and Health and Safety Code § 13146.1(b). The result of all fire inspections and fire equipment testing shall be provided to the Captain and the Sheriff, and the records maintained for at least two years (15 CCR 1032(b)).

404.8.1 FURNISHINGS

All furnishings allowed in the facility shall meet fire authority standards for fire performance characteristics. Prior to the introduction of any furnishing into the facility, the staff shall receive clearance from the local fire authority as to its appropriateness.

404.8.2 FLAMMABLE, TOXIC AND CAUSTIC MATERIALS

The Captain, in collaboration with the local environmental health expert, will review the type of materials introduced into the facility to ensure that flammable, toxic, and caustic materials are controlled and used safely. All such materials will be safely stored and only used by inmates under the direction of the staff.

404.9 EMERGENCY HOUSING OF INMATES

The Captain or the authorized designee shall develop a plan for the emergency housing of inmates in the event of a fire (15 CCR 1032(e)). The plan should include procedures for continuing to house inmates in the facility, identification of alternate facilities and the potential capacity of those facilities, inmate transportation options, and contact information for allied agencies. This plan shall be reviewed annually and revised if necessary.