

**BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
DEPARTMENTAL ORDER**

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TO: ALL PERSONNEL

FROM: SHERIFF-CORONER

SUBJECT: RIOT CONTROL - CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

DATE: February 14, 2005

POLICY: Riots pose a dangerous and complex situation in correctional facilities. Such situations will be controlled in a manner designed to safeguard the lives of employees, the public, non-involved in custody persons, and to maintain the integrity of the facility and apprehend the responsible.

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I. General Information:

- A. In a riot situation, time works against the facility and action must be quick to combat any incident before it escalates. Personnel should watch for the following patterns of development:
 - 1. Significant changes in an inmate's behavior pattern, eating, and recreation habits.
 - 2. Stockpiling of food items in their cells.
 - 3. Sudden reduction in inmate visiting.
 - 4. Challenge of staff authority.
 - 5. Increase in disciplinary infractions.
- B. While any of the above can be due to reasons other than a planned disturbance, they can be signs of institutional unrest and should be noted by staff. In a riot situation the primary concern is securing the entire facility as swiftly as possible.

II. Post Officer responsibilities:

- A. Notify the Correctional Team Sergeant of the incident. Notification should include the following:
 - 1. Location and scope of incident.
 - 2. Weapons in inmate control.
 - 3. Damage to facility.
 - 4. Statements made by rioters.
 - 5. Staff or civilians inside the affected area.
- B. Turn off televisions, telephones, and water.
- C. Lock entry doors to and inside of affected area.
- D. Start videotape of incident.
- E. Secure non-involved inmates.

III. Containment and notifications:

- A. Correctional staff on the scene and under the direction of the Correctional Team Sergeant, will isolate and contain the affected areas and inmates by establishing an inner perimeter of affected areas and implementing a lockdown of the entire facility.
- B. Civilians on scene will be escorted from the facility whenever possible. If it is not possible to remove civilians from the facility, secure them in an area not accessible by inmates (i.e. control towers or offices.)

- C. Correctional staff on the scene will secure avenues of escape while avoiding contact with the rioters.

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- D. The Correctional Team Sergeant will ensure that the following personnel are notified in the event of a riot situation:
 - 1. On-duty Patrol Sergeant
 - 2. Correctional Lieutenant
 - 3. Jail Commander
 - 4. Captain - Operations Division

IV. Correctional Team Sergeant responsibilities:

- A. Ensure the facility is locked down and civilians are secured.
- B. Determine the need for additional personnel.
- C. Whenever possible assign personnel to videotape the incident.
- D. Coordinate the activities of responding personnel and directing them to posts or staging areas.
- E. Obtain available information about the incident. This information should include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Location of riot
 - 2. Numbers and names of involved inmates.
 - 3. Weapons being used.
 - 4. Possible reason(s) for incident instigation.
- F. After containment the Team Sergeant will:
 - 1. Retain operational and tactical control of the situation unless relieved by higher authority.
 - 2. Negotiations will be attempted to resolve the incident without a use of force.
 - 3. The Team Sergeant will establish a team of personnel and equipment sufficient to physically control involved inmates.

V. Riot Control:

- A. The Jail Commander will determine the necessary lawful force to be used in order to overcome the resistance and prevent renewed violence.
- B. Only upon order of the Jail Commander, will unlock procedures begin. The unlocking of inmates will be slow and deliberate to ensure against a reoccurrence of the riot or disturbance.

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- VI. After the riot situation has terminated the Team Sergeant will ensure that the following will be completed:
- A. Involved persons (i.e. officers, medical staff, etc.) will submit reports indicating their knowledge and observations of the incident covering damages, injuries, and arrests to the Team Sergeant.
 - B. Provide immediate medical treatment as necessary.
 - C. Unlock the facility.
 - D. Conduct a count.