

DATE:	FEBRUARY 8, 2019
NUMBER:	J.1
SUBJECT:	SAFETY CELLS; DEFINITION AND USE
RELATED SECTIONS:	I.52 , I.89 , J.4 , J.5 , M.25 , MSD S.10 ; TITLE 15 & 24

PURPOSE

To ensure that safety cells throughout Sheriff's detention facilities are used for their intended purpose.

POLICY

Inmates who have been assessed for Inmate Safety Program (ISP) housing may be temporarily placed in a safety cell when the inmate is actively self-harming or actively assaultive. Book and Release (B&R) inmates at risk for suicide may be temporarily placed in a safety cell even when not exhibiting active self-harming or active assaultive behaviors. The staff recommending the safety cell placement will notify the watch commander.

Inmates returning from the Emergency Psychiatric Unit at San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital (EPU) with orders for Inmate Safety Program housing shall be housed according to DSB P&P J.5.

Safety cells are not to be used for punishment or a substitute for treatment.

DEFINITION

A safety cell is a single occupancy temporary housing unit constructed with a padded surface and other security features as outlined in Part 2, Section 1231.2.5 of Title 24-Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities. (Refer to DSB P&P section J.5 for additionally related definitions)

PROCEDURE

I. PLACEMENT

- A. Inmates may be placed in a safety cell temporarily if they are actively self-harming or actively assaultive. B&R inmates may be temporarily placed in a safety cell even when not exhibiting active self-harming or active assaultive behaviors. If the inmate is cooperative, all attempts should be made to obtain photos and fingerprints. A deputy will remain with the inmate and escort the inmate through the booking process prior to placement into a safety cell.
- B. An inmate placed into a safety cell shall have all of their clothing and property removed, including shoes, belts, removable rings, wristband, etc. Such property shall be stored in a secure location until the inmate is cleared. For security purposes, deputies will remain with the inmate during the process to ensure all items listed above are removed.
- C. All inmates placed in a safety cell must be issued a safety garment.

1. The safety garment is the only item of clothing the inmate may possess while in the safety cell.
2. The safety garment may only be removed from the inmate when specific identifiable risks to the inmate's safety are displayed after the initial placement (e.g., tearing, swallowing, covering his/her mouth with the garment, etc.). When a safety garment is removed the following notifications shall be made:
 - a. The mental/medical health staff shall be notified immediately.
 - b. The watch commander shall be notified immediately of the removal of the safety garment.
 - c. The reason the safety garment was removed must be articulated in an incident report.
3. All safety garments shall be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

II. DOCUMENTATION

- A. A Jail Information Management System (JIMS) incident report, utilizing the SCP (safety cell placement) as the primary incident type code, shall be written on each inmate placed in a safety cell.
 1. Depending on the reason for placement, the following additional incident type codes shall be utilized.
 - a. Placement due to homicidal reasons the additional type code 1 shall be ZTH (ISP Type-Homicidal).
 - b. Placement due to self-injury reasons the additional type code 1 shall be ZTS (ISP Type-Self-Injury).
 - c. When staff determines the placement was due to either verbal or written communication, the additional type code 2 shall be ZMV (ISP Method-Verbal).
 - d. When staff determines the placement was due to active behavior, the additional type code 2 shall be ZMA (ISP Method-Active).
 2. The report shall also indicate if any force was used (refer to DSB P&P I.89).
- B. The need for continued retention must be documented by sworn staff in a JIMS incident report, utilizing SCU (safety cell update) as the primary incident type code every 4 hours to document the facility gatekeeper's authorization for continued retention in a safety cell.

III. TRANSFERS

- A. If an inmate is transferred from one facility to another for placement into a safety cell, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The deputy from the originating facility will articulate in an incident report (utilizing primary type code SCP) the reason for the safety cell placement and will transport the inmate to the new facility.
2. Deputies assigned to the receiving facility will assume custody of the inmate at intake/processing and will conduct the actual placement of the inmate into a safety cell.
3. The deputies conducting the safety cell placement will write a supplemental safety cell placement report utilizing primary incident type code SCU.

IV. MONITORING

- A. Staff shall closely monitor any inmate placed in a safety cell. All checks, observations, assessments, and reviews will be documented on the Inmate Observation Log (J-19A Form).
 1. Every inmate in a safety cell shall be directly observed by sworn staff at random intervals not to exceed 15 minutes between checks. Such observations shall be documented on the J-19A Form. The inmate should be observed for the following:
 - a. Responsive to verbal commands.
 - b. Difficulty in breathing.
 - c. Evidence of vomiting or any other condition that may require medical attention.
 - d. Deputies should be cognizant of the inmate's physical condition. Medical staff must be notified immediately if the inmate exhibits any signs of medical distress, including agitated psychosis and/or agitated delirium.
 - e. A physician shall be contacted for an opinion anytime the inmate's status or condition warrants an evaluation.
 2. Each inmate shall have a nursing assessment within 30 minutes of placement into the safety cell. A medical assessment shall be completed every 24 hours thereafter or when clinically indicated. Such observations shall be documented on the J-19A Form and inmate health record.
 3. The facility gatekeeper shall observe the inmate within every 4 hours (from placement or last gatekeeper observation) to determine if continued retention in the safety cell is required. At any time within the 4 hours, the facility gatekeeper determines the inmate is no longer actively self-harming or actively assaultive, the inmate shall be moved from the safety cell to Enhanced Observation Housing (EOH). Such observations shall be documented on the J-19A Form and the inmate health record.

- a. If under exigent circumstances a watch commander determines to override the direction of the facility gatekeeper and requests the inmate be retained in a safety cell, the watch commander is required to articulate why the inmate was retained in a JIMS incident report.
4. A mental health consultation by a Qualified Mental Health Provider (QMHP), to determine the inmate's need for mental health services and suitability for retention in the safety cell, must occur within 12 hours of placement in a safety cell and no later than every 12 hours thereafter for as long as the inmate remains in the safety cell.
5. At the beginning and end of their shift, the watch commander or designee shall directly observe every inmate in a safety cell and review the J-19A Form.

V. NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Deputies are responsible for providing meals during normal meal times. The deputy providing the meal must ensure there are no items that the inmate may use to inflict injury to self or cause damage to the cell, such as plastic utensils. All offerings or refusals of meals will be documented on the J-19A Form.
- B. All food and water served to inmates in a safety cell shall be served in disposable containers.
- C. All offerings or refusal of water will be documented on the J-19A Form using the checkboxes.
 1. Sworn staff shall offer water:
 - a. During normal meal times (breakfast, lunch, dinner).
 - b. When the inmate is awake.
 - c. Upon request by the inmate.
 2. The facility gatekeeper shall offer water during their observation of the inmate, which is every 4 hours.

VI. REMOVAL

- A. The facility gatekeeper shall observe the inmate within every 4 hours (from placement or last gatekeeper observation) to determine if continued retention in the safety cell is required. If the facility gatekeeper determines the inmate is no longer actively self-harming or actively assaultive, the inmate shall be moved from the safety cell to EOH. Removal or clearance from the ISP is determined solely by a QMHP (refer to MSD P&P S.10 for further details).

B&R inmates removed from a safety cell will be cleared from the ISP for the purpose of release from custody. Inmates not seen by a QMHP and not cleared from ISP will be referred to EPU for further evaluation.

1. If under exigent circumstances a watch commander determines to override the direction of the facility gatekeeper and requests the inmate be retained in a safety cell, the watch commander is required to articulate why the inmate was retained in a JIMS incident report.
- B. When the medical or mental health condition of an inmate would be threatened by continued retention in any ISP housing, the inmate shall immediately be removed and transported to an emergency department. If a watch commander removes an inmate from ISP housing under such exigent circumstances and without consultation with a QMHP, the watch commander is required to articulate why the inmate was removed in a JIMS incident report.
- C. If the inmate is removed from the safety cell for the purpose of release from custody, the watch commander will consult with Sheriff's Medical personnel and arrange for transportation of the inmate to EPU
1. A Request for 72 Hour Detention (MH-302 Form) and a NetRMS incident report shall be completed by sworn staff prior to transfer to EPU.
 2. An inmate in custody under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) hold as defined in the Welfare and Institution Code (WIC) Sections 5000 (mental health or psychiatric hold), an MH-302 Form and NetRMS report are not required. Once an LPS hold is verified by medical personnel, a JIMS incident report shall be written referencing the court order associated with the case.
 3. The medical staff shall notify EPU of the impending transfer of the inmate.
 4. A deputy will transport the inmate to EPU and required documents to the psychiatrist. The deputy will remain with the released inmate until a safe and orderly transfer of services is completed and the psychiatrist on duty releases the deputy from further standby duties.

VII. SANITATION

Safety cells shall be cleaned and disinfected using facility approved disinfectants or bleach solution after every use and every 24 hours when occupied.

VIII. FIRE SAFETY

- A. Personnel responding to a fire in a safety cell should be aware of the toxicity of the smoke and shall use a self-contained breathing apparatus when suppressing the fire or evacuating inmates.
- B. A fire hose or a multi-purpose extinguisher shall be located within twenty (20) feet of all safety cells.