

Safety and Sobering Cells

518.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy establishes the requirement for placing inmates into and the continued placement of inmates in safety cells or sobering cells.

See attachment: [SAFETY or SOBERING LOG.pdf](#)

See attachment: [TRUCKEE SOBERING WATCH.pdf](#)

518.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Safety cell - An enhanced protective housing designed to minimize the risk of injury or destruction of property used for inmates who display behavior that reveals intent to cause physical harm to themselves or others or to destroy property.

Sobering cell - A holding cell designed to minimize the risk of injury by falling or dangerous behavior. It is used as an initial sobering place for arrestees or inmates who are a threat to their own safety or the safety of others as a result of being intoxicated from any substance, and who require a protected environment to prevent injury or victimization by other inmates.

518.2 POLICY

This facility will employ the use of safety and sobering cells to protect inmates from injury or to prevent the destruction of property by an inmate in accordance with applicable law.

A sobering or safety cell shall not be used as punishment or as a substitute for treatment. The Jail Commander or the authorized designee shall review this policy annually.

518.3 SAFETY CELL PROCEDURES

The following guidelines apply when placing any inmate in a safety cell:

- (a) Placement of an inmate into a safety cell requires approval of the Jail Commander or their designee or Responsible Health Care Staff (15 CCR 1055).
- (b) A safety cell log shall be initiated every time an inmate is placed into the safety cell and should be maintained for the entire time the inmate is housed in the cell. Cell logs will be retained in accordance with established office retention schedules.
- (c) If the need arises for more than one safety cell an alternate cell may be used as a temporary overflow. This shall be documented in an incident report.
- (d) A safety check consisting of direct visual observation that is sufficient to assess the inmate's well-being and behavior shall occur twice every 30 minutes (15 CCR 1055). Each safety check of the inmate shall be documented.
- (e) Inmates should be permitted to remain normally clothed or should be provided a safety suit, except in cases where the inmate has demonstrated that clothing articles may

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pose a risk to the inmate's safety or the facility. In these cases, the reasons for not providing clothing shall be documented on the safety cell log.

- (f) Inmates in safety cells shall be given the opportunity to have fluids (water, juices) at least hourly. Correctional officers shall provide the fluids in safety cups. The inmates shall be given sufficient time to drink the fluids prior to the cup being removed. Each time an inmate is provided the opportunity to drink fluids will be documented on the safety cell log.
- (g) Inmates will be provided meals during each meal period. Meals will be served on paper plates or in other safe containers. Inmates shall be given ample time to complete their meals prior to the plate or container being removed. All meals provided to inmates in safety cells will be documented on the safety cell log.
- (h) The Sergeant or Officer In Charge shall inspect the logs for completeness and review the appropriateness for continued retention in the safety cell at least every four hours (15 CCR 1055). The reason for continued retention or removal from the safety cell shall be documented on the safety cell log and Jail incident report
- (i) A medical assessment of the inmate in the safety cell shall occur within 12 hours of placement or at the next daily sick call, whichever is earliest. Continued assessment of the inmate in the safety cell shall be conducted by a qualified health care professional and shall occur at least every 24 hours thereafter. Medical assessments shall be documented.
- (j) A mental health assessment shall be conducted within 12 hours of an inmate's placement in the safety cell (15 CCR 1055). The mental health professional's recommendations shall be documented.
- (k) An inmate may only be released from a safety watch with the approval of a qualified mental health professional or responsible physician.

518.3.1 TRUCKEE SAFETY WATCH

Any inmate housed at the Truckee Substation requiring placement in a safety cell will be transported to the Wayne Brown Correctional Facility as soon as possible. The on-duty Sergeant or Officer In Charge shall be notified immediately

- (a) Direct visual observation of the inmate will be maintained in cell #T105 and documented at least twice every thirty (30) minutes until transportation arrangements can be made.

518.4 SOBERING CELL PROCEDURES

The following guidelines apply when placing any inmate in a sobering cell:

- (a) A sobering cell log shall be initiated every time an inmate is placed into a sobering cell. The log shall be maintained for the entire time the inmate is housed in the cell. Cell logs will be retained in accordance with established office retention schedules.
- (b) A safety check consisting of direct visual observation that is sufficient to assess the inmate's well-being and behavior shall occur at least twice every 30 minutes on an irregular schedule. Each visual observation of the inmate by staff shall be documented.

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- (c) Qualified health care professionals shall assess the medical condition of the inmate in the sobering cell at least every six hours (15 CCR 1056). Only inmates who continue to need the protective housing of a sobering cell will continue to be detained in such housing.
- (d) Inmates will be removed from the sobering cell when they no longer pose a threat to their own safety and the safety of others and are able to continue the booking process.
- (e) Females and males will be detained in separate sobering cells.
- (f) Inmates who need to be observed for sobering purposes will be housed in an approved sobering cell. If the need arises for more than one sobering housing area an alternate cell may be used as a temporary overflow. This shall be documented in an incident report.

Inmates Accepted Into the Facility Will:

- (a) Be conscious.
- (b) Respond to simple verbal commands.
- (c) Have no difficulty breathing.
- (d) Not appear to be acutely ill or have apparent injuries.
- (e) Be able to walk with minimal assistance.

518.4.1 SOBERING WATCH DOCUMENTATION

The officer conducting the check will annotate the following information on the inmate "Observation Form," and report any deterioration of the inmate's condition immediately to medical and the on-duty Sergeant or Officer In Charge. Visual observations will include:

- (a) The time the direct visual observation is conducted.
- (b) The name of the person conducting the direct visual observation.
- (c) Pertinent observations made by the staff person conducting the check.
- (d) Observation of the inmate's breathing to determine if he/she is breathing regularly.
- (e) Observation of the inmate to ensure that there has been no vomiting while he/she is asleep.
- (f) An arousal attempt, as necessary to ensure that the person will respond to verbal or physical stimulation.
- (g) Note anything said by the inmate or actions of the inmate that indicates a continual need for said inmate to remain housed in the sobering cell.

The on-duty watch commander will:

- (a) Sign the Sobering Watch Form.
- (b) Monitor checks of inmates placed on a sobering watch.
- (c) Ensure that no inmate remains in a sobering cell over four(4) hours without an evaluation by a medical staff person or an evaluation by custody staff,

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pursuant to written medical procedures in accordance with Section 1213 of Title 15, to determine whether the prisoner has an urgent medical problem.

Termination of a sobering watch:

- (a) Sobering watches may be terminated by the qualified health care professional.
- (b) Inmates to be housed subsequent to a termination of a sobering watch will be evaluated by the qualified health care professional prior to housing.
- (c) In all instances, the inmate "Observation Form" will be placed in the inmate's hard card, and become a part of his/her permanent booking record.

518.4.2 TRUCKEE SOBERING WATCH

Truckee will use the same general guidelines as listed above for determining the need for an inmate to be housed in a sobering cell. Staff will conduct and document direct visual observation of the inmate(s) placed on a sobering watch.

Inmates who need to be observed for sobering purposes will be housed in an approved sobering cell. If the need arises for more than one sobering housing area, an alternate cell may be used as a temporary overflow. This shall be documented in an incident report.

Once housed in the sobering cell, the inmate will be observed at intervals of at least twice every thirty (30) minutes. Officers will have visual and verbal contact noting the inmate's response on the written log. This log will be maintained as part of the inmate's permanent file.

Visual observations will include the time the direct visual observation is conducted and the name of the person conducting the direct visual observation.

Pertinent observations made by the staff person conducting the check. Pertinent observations will include:

- (a) Observation of the inmate's breathing to determine if he/she is breathing regularly.
- (b) Observation of the inmate to ensure that there has been no vomiting while he/she is asleep.
- (c) An arousal attempt as necessary to ensure that the person will respond to verbal or physical stimulation.
- (d) Note anything said by the inmate or actions of the inmate that indicates a continual need for said inmate to remain housed in the sobering cell.

Any deterioration of the inmate's condition, such as unable to arouse, unable to respond to simple commands, trouble breathing, or appears ill, he/she will be taken to Tahoe Forest Hospital immediately and notify the Sergeant or Officer In Charge.

Attachments

SAFETY or SOBERING LOG.pdf

Corrections Division Inmate Observation Log

Shift supervisor must be notified and approve all of the following:

Page #: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Cell	<input type="checkbox"/> Sobering Cell	<input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Restraints	<input type="checkbox"/> OC Observation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct visual observation twice every 30 minutes. 2. Medical notified within 15 min of placement. 3. Medical evaluation at 6 hrs. 4. Supervisor continued retention approval every 4 hrs. 5. Medical/Mental Health evaluation of placement/retention within 12 hrs. 6. Removal only with approval of Mental Health. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiated by Medical or Supervisor. 2. Direct visual observation twice every 30 minutes. 3. Medical evaluation by 4 hrs and every 4 hrs thereafter. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct visual observation twice every 30 minutes. 2. Supervisor continued retention approval every 1 hr. 3. Medical evaluation for placement /retention by 1 hr. 4. Exercise alternate extremities each 2 hrs. 5. Medical assessment by 4 hrs. 6. Taken to Medical Facility for evaluation after 8 hrs. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct visual observation twice every 30 minutes. 2. Watch conducted for a minimum of an hour.

Inmate Name: _____ Booking #: _____ Cell Location: _____

Shift _____ Supervisor: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Medical Staff: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Nevada County Behavioral Health Notified: Yes No Notified by: _____

Nevada County Behavioral Health Staff: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Initial Arrestee Reason for Placement:

Orientation	Gait	Pupils	Level of Consciousness
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative <input type="checkbox"/> Argumentative <input type="checkbox"/> Combative <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Steady <input type="checkbox"/> Unstable <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> PERRL <input type="checkbox"/> Nystagmus <input type="checkbox"/> Sluggish <input type="checkbox"/> Non-reactive <input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Awake & Alert <input type="checkbox"/> No Response <input type="checkbox"/> Lethargic, but responds to stimuli <input type="checkbox"/> Responds to pain only <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Comments: _____

Log all that apply: Food, Water, Breathing, Behavior, Demeanor, Speech, Movement, etc...

Date/Time	Activity(Describe)	Person Checking	Badge #		Check One	
		Print Name	Ofc.	Sgt.	Med.	CMH

TRUCKEE SOBERING WATCH.pdf

