



POLICY DIRECTIVE

Policy:	DOC 3.1.4 PERIMETER SECURITY
Effective Date:	02/01/1997 Page 1 of 2
Revision Date(s):	09/19/2011; 04/24/2026
Signature/Title:	/s/ Eric Strauss, Director

I. POLICY

Department secure facilities will maintain secure perimeters that are consistent with the security and control needs of the offender population and necessary to prevent offender escapes and unauthorized public access.

II. APPLICABILITY

Secure facilities that are Department-owned and contracted, as specified in contract.

III. DEFINITIONS (see Glossary)

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. Security System

1. Each facility administrator will develop specific requirements to ensure adequate perimeter security consistent with the facility's physical plant design and the multi-level custody of the confined offenders.
2. The chief of security and the maintenance supervisor are jointly responsible for the maintenance and support of the perimeter security system described in this policy.
3. The security system will use barriers, detection systems, lighting, patrols, and surveillance, or their functional equivalents.

B. Barriers

1. There will be a minimum of a 20-foot separation between fences and sufficient rolled and tape-type razor ribbon in place on all perimeter fences to deter penetration or scaling.
2. Weeds and other vegetation will be suppressed through mowing, trimming, and the use of sterilized, graveled areas between the fences, with dark plastic under the gravel to prevent weed infestation.
3. To deter aircraft landings, the facility administrator may authorize, with the approval of the Department Director, the installation of "ground clutter" in the form of trees, light standards, or cables strung between high mast poles and interior compound buildings.
4. Front and rear entrances will incorporate sally port or vestibule-type doors or gates that are interlocked or operated in such a way that only one of the two doors or gates is opened at any one time.
5. In facilities with less secure or unfenced perimeter, the facility administrator will ensure that adequate measures are in place to prevent unauthorized offender exit or public entry.

C. Detection Systems

1. An electronic intrusion detection system may be employed to further strengthen the perimeter. These systems will be designed to meet the security needs of each individual facility and may incorporate a combination of closed-circuit television or other technology-based systems.
2. These systems will be monitored in the control center or other continuously staffed post.
3. In the event a correctional facility does not have the staff or expertise to maintain these sophisticated electronic systems, the facility administrator may establish a maintenance contract to provide 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year repair services.

D. Lighting

1. There will be adequate lighting of the perimeter and all adjacent areas.
 - a. This may be through the use of high-intensity, high-mast lighting, or the equivalent, and sufficient to provide visibility on the perimeter and in the facility's compound under all reasonably foreseeable weather conditions.
2. The perimeter lighting will be connected to the generator backup system unless the lighting is generated by the city power system.
3. If the facility maintenance staff is unable to maintain these lighting systems, the facility administrator may establish a contract to provide 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year repair services.

E. Patrols and Surveillance

1. Direct perimeter surveillance will be accomplished through daily physical perimeter checks or the use of vehicular patrols and staffed towers.
2. Armed staff may be used to provide perimeter security in adult correctional facilities. Armed staff may not be used to provide perimeter security at youth correctional facilities.
3. Additional posts or supplementary lighting may be instituted in the event of fog, smoke, or other limited visibility conditions.
4. Facility staff will ensure control over pedestrian and vehicular traffic at the front and rear entrances by identification and search processes outlined in *DOC 3.1.5 Secure Facility Entry and Exit* and *DOC 3.1.17 Searches and Contraband Control*.

V. CLOSING

Questions about this policy should be directed to the facility administrator.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. 2-15-112, MCA
- B. *DOC 3.1.5 Secure Facility Entry and Exit; DOC 3.1.17 Searches and Contraband Control*