

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 11

26 September 2025

Question No. 679

DEBORAH MORRIS MLA: To ask the Minister for Corrections —

1. What emergency management framework is in place at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), and what emergencies are covered under this framework.
2. What specific training and refresher training is provided to ACT Corrective Services officers on emergency response at the AMC, and how often is this training conducted.
3. What procedures are in place to protect and evacuate visitors present at the AMC during an emergency.
4. What are the operational procedures for responding to (a) an armed inmate, (b) an armed intruder from outside the centre and (c) an unauthorised but unarmed intruder.
5. What exercises, drills or simulations of emergency scenarios have been conducted at the AMC in the past five years, and on what dates.
6. Who outside of ACT Corrective Services holds formal responsibility for ensuring the AMC is compliant with emergency preparedness requirements, including (a) ensuring all staff receive training, (b) ensuring response plans are up-to-date and tested and (c) ensuring management oversight and reporting of compliance.

DR MARISA PATERSON MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) has a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan using the Incident Command and Control System Plus (ICCS+) framework. The EMP covers all major incident types including fire, evacuation, medical emergency, infrastructure, bomb threat, personal threat (armed/unarmed), external emergency, escape, perimeter breach, and major disturbance.

The ACTCS *Emergency Management Policy* is available on the ACT Legislation Register. Operating Procedures guide responses to incident codes which follow the Australian Standard Code colours:

- Code Black (personal threat)
- Code Red (fire)

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- Code Blue (medical)
- Code Green (escape)
- Code Grey (detainee disturbance or riot)
- Code Orange (evacuation)
- Code Purple (Bomb threat)
- Code White (Breach of external perimeter)
- Code Yellow (Infrastructure and other internal emergencies)

2. All correctional officers must complete the following mandatory and refresher training related to emergency response:

- Operational Skills

Initial 8-day course with a 1-day annual refresher. This course covers response capabilities during emergency situations.

- First Aid

Initial 1 day course with half day annual refresher. This course covers CPR, emergency life support and general first aid procedures.

- Crowd Control

Initial 4-day with 2-day refresher every 2 years. This course prepares officers to work as a coordinated unit to respond to disorder.

- Fire Awareness and Breathing Apparatus

Initial 2-day course with half day annual refresher. This course covers the effective and safe use of firefighting equipment.

Select correctional officers also complete the following specialised training courses:

- Tactical Leadership

5-day initial course followed by 2-day annual refresher. This course trains officers to lead a team in an emergency situation.

- Grenadiers

5-day initial course followed by 2-day annual refresher. This course trains officers to deploy chemical agents.

- First Response Negotiators

5-day initial course followed by 2-day annual refresher. This course trains officers in advanced communication for negotiation and de-escalation during crisis situations.

- Incident Controller Course

3-day initial course followed by 1-day annual refresher. This course trains officers in incident control.

3. General members of the public visiting detainees are escorted or supervised throughout their visit to the AMC, and are required to follow the direction of their escorting officer/s. Visitors are considered in all relevant policy and procedures. Unescorted visitors must have completed the Security Awareness training prior to being able to be an unescorted visitor. While these visitors would also be required to follow the direction of surrounding officers, this training provides instructions around how to respond during an emergency situation, including:

- Following security procedures
- Using mobile duress alarms
- Understanding the emergency codes and associated actions.

4. There are three codes which may govern responses to these incident types:

- Code black (personal threat)
- Code brown (external emergency)
- Code white (perimeter breach).

The type of code used would be determined by the circumstances. These operating procedures are excluded from notification as their contents are likely to disclose information that may endanger public safety or undermine justice, security or good order at a correctional centre.

5. The AMC aims to conduct 6 tests per year to test contingency as per the Emergency Management Plan. Full details for the past five years are not readily available, but listed are some of the most recent exercises:

- September 2025 – Detainee disturbance including Justice Health Staff
- July 2025 – External to fence bomb threat involving AFP
- March 2025 – Rooftop demonstration involving multi-agency response
- June 2024 – Tabletop demonstration to AFP, ACT Fire and Rescue, and ACT Ambulance Service about AMC tactical capability
- May 2024 – Gatehouse evacuation exercise
- March 2024 – Education evacuation exercise
- July 2023 – Admissions evacuation exercise and Hume Health Centre evacuation
- February 2023 – Gatehouse and Health evacuation exercise
- February 2023 – Women's Unit evacuation exercise
- February 2023 – Remand Cottage evacuation exercise
- January 2021 – Court Transport Unit evacuation exercise
- March 2021 – Court Transport Unit vehicle breakdown tabletop exercise
- April 2021 – Court Transport Unit Bomb threat exercise

6. In addition to whole of ACT Government compliance arrangements, such as those provided by Worksafe, the Director General Justice and Community Safety Directorate has the most immediate responsibility for ensuring ACTCS is appropriately prepared for emergencies. The ACT Custodial Inspector provides assessment and feedback when undertaking critical incidents which may consider emergency management.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

M. Paterson

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA
Minister for Corrections

Date: *21/10/25*

This response required 5hrs 50mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$515.95