

# Prison Escape Protocol

## I. Introduction

In the event of a prisoner escape from any facility within the Massachusetts Correctional Institution-Bridgewater complex (MCI), MCI will notify the BSU Police Department. The BSUPD will respond to one or more pre-arranged observation posts to interdict and apprehend any escapee who is traveling in the direction of the university.

MCI will also activate its emergency siren system to alert the community at large of the escape.

## II. Protocol

### A. Initial Response Procedures

1. MCI will confirm the escape. "Escape" includes any circumstance when an MCI prisoner can no longer be accounted for, including "walking away" from a work assignment (or other detail, whether or not under guard); a failure to return at the designated time from a work assignment; or an unauthorized departure from any MCI facility.
2. It may be necessary to initiate a complete search of the interior of the MCI complex to ensure that the escapee is not hiding and waiting for the initial alert and accompanying search to subside.
3. If there is reason to believe that the escapee has already penetrated MCI's perimeter, area law enforcement agencies, including the Bridgewater State University Police Department, will be notified by telephone of the escape.
4. The Bridgewater community will be alerted to the escape through the activation of MCI's emergency siren system.
5. MCI will circulate a wanted poster with a photo of the escapee.
6. BSUPD units will immediately proceed to take up a post at the MBTA commuter rail station and, if requested, the Summer Street railroad bridge.
7. MCI and the Department of Correction (DOC) will deploy escapee recovery teams.
8. The State Police air wing will be deployed to assist in recovery, if available.
9. MCI-DOC will apply for a felony escape warrant as soon as possible after the escape. The existence of such a warrant will be made known to area law enforcement agencies.

10. After apprehending the escapee, all agencies alerted at the time of the escape will be contacted.

B. Follow-up Response Procedures

1. The university's chief of police or designee will notify the executive vice president so that the Crisis Team may be activated.
2. The university will take appropriate steps, based on the circumstances of the escape, to protect the campus community.
3. Maintaining the physical security of the residence halls and the safety of resident students should be strongly considered. It may be necessary to post institutional security officers or other suitable employees at the entrances of all residence halls.
4. Stepping up the number and frequency of police patrols on campus should likewise be considered.
5. The university community should be notified by appropriate means of the escape and the response measures that are in effect.

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## PRISON ESCAPE PROTOCOL CHECKLIST

THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN ALERTED TO AN ESCAPE FROM MCI-BRIDGEWATER.

THE BSU POLICE HAVE RESPONDED TO ONE OR MORE PRE-ASSIGNED PATROL POSTS BASED ON MCI'S PRISON ESCAPE PLAN.

THE UNIVERSITY WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS, BASED ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE ESCAPE, TO PROTECT THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY.

MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PROTECT CAMPUS RESIDENCE HALLS.

THE NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF POLICE PATROLS ON CAMPUS HAS BEEN INCREASED.

THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY HAS BEEN NOTIFIED BY APPROPRIATE MEANS OF THE ESCAPE AND THE RESPONSE MEASURES THAT ARE IN EFFECT.

PRISON ESCAPE CHECKLIST