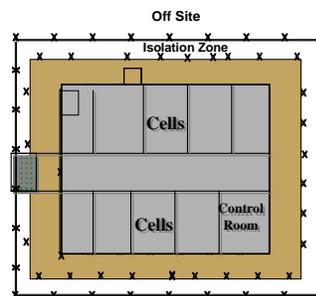


Risk Assessment Methodology for Prisons (RAM-P) Fact Sheet



What is RAM-P?

The Risk Assessment Methodology for Prisons (RAM-P) is a systematic risk-based process that is used to assist prisons and jails of all types in evaluating the physical protection systems intended to ensure that inmates remain incarcerated for the specified legal time. The primary thrust is to develop and evaluate potential escape scenarios. It is not a quantitative approach but rather provides relative risk values. Improvements then can also be evaluated to develop cost-effective protection upgrades to minimize the likelihood of escapes. The RAM-P models are based on the 35 years of security related experience at Sandia National Laboratories and have been developed in conjunction with federal, state and professional organizations.

RAM-P was developed with support primarily from the National Institute of Justice and the Pennsylvania State Department of Corrections. Pennsylvania State has incorporated this methodology as one of the evaluation tools used for all the state corrections facilities. The American Corrections Association sponsored a workshop in 2004 in which several corrections personnel from across the US were trained in the methodology.

Features

RAM-P uses a path analysis technique to evaluate potential escape routes. This requires knowledge of either quantitative or relative detection capabilities at the facility. Additionally, the amount of time taken by the inmate traversing the escape path must also be known. The final element in the analysis is to compare the time taken by the inmate after detection with the time taken by corrections officers to interdict the potential escapee. This is done for all credible escape paths resulting in an understanding of current system effectiveness as well as providing insights into potential areas for improvements.

Applicability

RAM-P would be useful to any personnel at corrections facilities involved in security and contraband detection. Agencies which provide oversight to Federal, State and local prisons and jails would find training in RAM-P valuable.

Availability

The development of RAM-P has not included so far the training and licensing of companies to train and use the methodology. A previous training class was approximately nine days and involved an actual correction facility as part of the class. Organizations interested in RAM-P should contact Sandia National Laboratories for further information.



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