



TEXAS PRISONS COMMUNITY ADVOCATES

TEXAS is leading the **NATION** in prison-related Covid **DEATHS** among incarcerated individuals and officers .

The Marshall Project 7.10.2021

69 of TDCJ's 97 Units ARE NOT FULLY AIR CONDITIONED

WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR:

HUMANE TEMPERATURES, Proper ventilation, and air purification! This is the time for the Texas legislators to reduce the number of prison-related COVID deaths by installing air purification and to tell to ensure TDCJ maintains the same standards utilized by the Texas jail system, which are to maintain temperature stays between 65°F and 85°F within all of TDCJ's Prison facilities. Support SB43 by Senator José Menéndez HB88 by Representative Terry Cannales.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Taxpayers are losing **MILLIONS** of dollars on medical/heat related lawsuits and stand to lose more in the near future

Lawsuits and Settlements	
Death of Kenneth James 4:18-CV-00975	\$ 900,000.00
Death of Douglas Hudson 4:18-CV-00976	\$ 475,000.00
Death of Rodney Adams 4:14-CV-03326	\$ 750,000.00
Death of Larry McCollum 4:14-CV-03253	\$ 905,000.00
Death of Robert Allen Webb 4:14-CV-03302	\$ 600,000.00
Death of Michael Martone 4:13-CV-03369	\$ 500,000.00
Death of Alexander Togonidze 4:14-CV-03324	\$ 450,000.00
Death of Albert Hinojosa 4:14-CV-03311	\$ 250,000.00
Brad Caddell, who survived a heat stroke. 4:14-CV-03323	\$ 90,000.00
Pack Lawsuit Cole v. Collier 4:14-CV-01698	\$ 7,000,000.00
Roy Jones 4:17-CV-02334	\$ 101,500.00
Total	\$ 12,021,500.00



Violation of Rights & Inhumane treatment
US District Judge Keith P. Ellison ruled in July 2018 that heat inside prisons was "cruel and unusual punishment." (Houston Chronical, 2018, Pack Lawsuit).

- **COVID and Extreme Heat have Killed too many**
 - COVID has killed **265** incarcerated individuals and **63** officers (as of 9/21/21 TDCJ website)
 - Excessive heat is the number one weather-related killer in the United States.
 - Both incarcerated individuals and staff have died due to the extreme heat.
 - Suicide rates within TDCJ facilities increase during hot summer months. **(For 2021 - 36 suicide deaths among incarcerated individuals suicides as of 9/21/21)**
- **Heat and COVID makes Prisons more Dangerous**
 - Exposure to extreme heat can lead to aggression, exacerbate mental health problems putting incarcerated individuals and correctional officers at increased risk for violence and injury.
 - Heat is a Contributing factor in Employee turnover **(TDCJ is lacking 6500 officers as of 9/21/21)**
- **Excessive Medical Expenses**
 - Heat can cause a medical crisis and intensify the severity of pre-existing medical conditions which can lead to substantial increases in medical care costs.
- **Lack of Humane Temperatures in all TDCJ facilities Inhibits Rehabilitative Efforts**
 - The few rehabilitative programs that TDCJ offers are unit-specific. Therefore, if an individual isn't transferred to one of those particular units, they are denied access to participate in these rehabilitative programs.
- **Current methods are ineffective**
 - The current policy is riddled with problems. It's unsatisfactory, inconsistent, and is just not working.

"ON A TYPICAL HOT SUMMER DAY IN TEXAS, IF IT'S 90°F AND YOU ADD HUMIDITY, IT CAN FEEL LIKE 100°F. HOWEVER, THIS SUMMER, WE HAVE EXPERIENCED TEMPERATURES OVER 110°F IN SOME AREAS.

NOW, WHAT IF YOU WERE LOCKED IN A CONCRETE BUILDING (KIND OF LIKE BAKING IN AN OVEN) WITH LIMITED VENTILATION AND LITTLE TO NO BREEZE? AT 110°F PLUS HUMIDITY, THAT GETS US TO AT LEAST 120°F, NOW ADDING INADEQUATE VENTILATION, CONCRETE, AND METAL, WE'RE AT A MINIMUM OF 125°F. ACCORDING TO THE HEATING MATRIX UTILIZED BY TDCJ, AT 90°F, HEAT EXHAUSTION IS POSSIBLE, AND AT 105°F, HEATSTROKE IS POSSIBLE."