



STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Corrections

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Press Release

For Immediate Release:
Sept. 4, 2024

NDOC announces change in custody levels to better align with safety mission

In an effort to increase the safety of both staff and offenders, the Nevada Department of Corrections is announcing a shift in custody levels of two of its prisons.

Offenders from Ely State Prison – the state’s highest level maximum-security institution – will be transported to High Desert State Prison near Las Vegas. A selection of offenders from High Desert State Prison will be moved to Ely State Prison.

Ely State Prison will transition to medium security, while High Desert State Prison will be designated as a maximum-security institution.

The change will ensure the highest-risk offenders be housed where staffing levels are greater, and the institution is closer to outside law-enforcement and medical services, if necessary. High Desert State Prison is also a newer facility with higher perimeter security standards.

“The safety of our officers, staff and offenders is paramount to our mission as a Department,” said Director James Dzurenda. “This move will allow us to increase our security within the institutions to better protect offenders serve the communities that trust us to keep them safe.”

Officers throughout the state receive consistent Peace Officer Safety Training for all custody levels as offenders are often moved to various institutions for medical care, court appearances or other needs. Their training is refreshed annually.

High Desert State Prison is about 1,576,000 square feet and can hold up to 4,100 offenders. It opened Sept. 1, 2000. Ely State Prison opened in July 1989 and has the capacity for 1,183 inmates.

The dates of the transfer are being withheld to ensure the safety of offenders, staff and the public.

The Nevada Department of Corrections is committed to building a safer community by striving to incorporate progressive best practices in all aspects of corrections. NDOC houses more than 12,000 persons with felony convictions in 18 facilities statewide. For more information visit www.doc.nv.gov.