



## STATE OF NEVADA Department of Corrections

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### Press Release

For Immediate Release:  
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#### **Homicide deaths investigated at High Desert State Prison and Southern Desert Correctional Center**

CARSON CITY, Nev. -- High Desert State Prison and Southern Desert Correctional Center, both in Indian Springs, are on modified operations Tuesday after a series of suspected homicides.

The NDOC is investigating three deaths at High Desert State Prison:

- Jacob Herman, 35, on July 16, 2025
- Jordan Canteberry, 34, on July 26, 2025
- Dmarea Wallace, 18, on August 6, 2025

And one death at Southern Desert Correctional Center:

- Ryan Warren-Hunt, 35, on August 11, 2025

The deaths were in different housing units and appear unrelated. NDOC officials suspect drug debt is an exacerbating factor. The Department is increasing surveillance and shifting staff operations to reduce the number of offenders outside of their cells at one time. The Department is also reviewing standard procedures regarding classification of offenders and housing practices.

James Dzurenda, Director of the Nevada Department of Corrections, said they are also consulting outside experts to determine ways to curtail the influx of contraband and illegal substances into the institutions. He said a variety of committees are being formed to address the issues.

The committees will include former offenders, researchers, offender advocates and IT experts. He also instructed wardens to address issues of violence and drug abuse with the offenders at their institutions.

"We can't rely on our traditional operation plans alone," Dzurenda said. "We have to do something that's unique. We need to get creative in bringing in different perspectives and attack this problem from all angles. This is our top priority."

The deaths are currently under investigation and no other information is available at this time.

*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](http://www.doc.nv.gov).*

