



645 Tons of Cooling Deployed at the Department of Correction's Osborn Correctional Institution

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(SOMERS, CT) — The Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC) is investing more than 1.2 million dollars on largescale air conditioning units in order to ensure the comfort of the staff and incarcerated population at the Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, CT.

As the summer's first heat wave grips the state, the DOC proactively deployed a total of 18 industrial grade air conditioners at the Osborn facility.

Opened in 1963, the Osborn prison (formerly known as the Connecticut Correctional Institution-Somers) was built as a replacement for the Old Wethersfield State Prison. Due to the age of the facility, it was constructed without the benefit of a central air handling system.

Of the 18 air handling units, 13 are 40-ton units which individual pump out 480,000 British Thermal Units (BTUs). There are also five, 25-ton units, each putting out 300,000 BTUs.

The combined output for all 18 units is 7,740,000 BTUs, with a total of 645 tons of cooling deployed.

The majority of the other prisons within the DOC system are equipped with air conditioning. However, considering the weather forecast predicting oppressively high temperatures for the upcoming week, the agency has instituted its heat mitigation protocol across all its facilities.

The protocol includes providing ice water in all the housing units; the deployment of industrial sized fans; the reduction of outside recreation in order to reduce exposure to the heat; and monitoring by health services and correctional staff of the incarcerated population for signs of heat-related illness.

The DOC has plans in place for the upgrade of the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems at both the Bridgeport and Hartford facilities – scheduled to begin construction in 2027.

"I encourage everyone within our facilities the incarcerated population and staff to keep hydrated – even if you do not feel thirsty - during these hot summer days," said Interim Commissioner Sharonda Carlos. "As always, keeping everyone safe is our top priority."



***Air Handling Unit Outside the
Osborn facility***

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