



OFFICE OF INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE
COMMISSIONER

John F. King, Commissioner

Safety Fire Division

2 MLK, JR. DR., 920 WEST TOWER, ATLANTA, GA 30334

WWW.GAININSURANCE.ORG

Safety Fire Inspection Report

File No.: 26-009306

Name of Building: Ware State Prison

Name of Facility: Ware State Prison

Company Name: Georgia Department of Corrections

Serial No:

Owner: James Spann

Address: 3620 Harris RD

Owner Address: 300 Patrol Road

City, State, Zip: Waycross, GA 31503

City, State, Zip: Forsyth, GA 31029

Owner Phone: (912) 285-6432

Email: james.spann@gdc.ga.gov

Type of Inspection: Complaint			
Standard Used: 2024 NFPA 101 LSC Existing			
Admin. Information			
C.P. No.:	Date Issued:	C.O. No.:	Variance
# of Current Violations: 1	# of Violations Last Inspection: 0	Last Inspected By:	Date Last Inspection:
Description of Facility			
Type of Occupancy: INS-Institution (JAIL)	Occupant Load: 2875	# of beds:	Condition Used: IV
	Square Ft. Area: 296034	# of stories: 1	
Construction Type: II(222) - IB	Sprinkler: Total NFPA 13		Basement: No
Deficiency Type	Compliance	Deficiency Type	Compliance
1. Number of exits	N/A	8. Detection, alarm, communication systems	N/A
2. Means of egress of approved type	Non-Compliant	9. Extinguishment systems	N/A
3. Travel distances to exits	N/A	10. Construction type requirements	N/A
4. Exit signs	N/A	11. Compartmentation requirements	N/A
5. Emergency lighting	N/A	12. Electrical system	N/A
6. Vertical openings protection	N/A	13. HVAC system	N/A
7. Interior finish	N/A	14. Other:	N/A

Accompanied by:

My signature, below, acknowledges that I accompanied the Fire Safety Compliance Officer making this report.

Name:

James C. Spann, Prison

Title: Warden

Date: June 26, 2026

Notice: All deficiencies and/or violations noted above and on the attached pages shall be corrected immediately in order for this facility to comply with O.C.G.A. Title 25, Chapter 2. This report shall be returned to the Safety Fire Division Office within 30 days indicating the deficiencies and/or violations noted have been corrected by initialing and dating each item. If all items are not corrected, a plan of correction shall be attached and submitted to the office within 30 days stating what corrective measures will be taken with the estimated date of completion. Failure to correct the noted deficiencies and/or violation of Georgia Safety Fire Law. **Follow-up inspection fees of \$150 or \$220 will be charged and due payable in advance for second, third, and subsequent inspections as specified in Code Section 25-2-4.1.**

No visual violations were noted Recommend Issuance of Certificate of Occupancy Recommend Issuance of temporary Certificate of Occupancy for _____ Days A follow-up inspection is scheduled to be conducted in approximately 30 Days

FSCO:

Title: Building Code Inspections Supervisor - South

Date: June 26, 2026

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File No.

26-009306

Permit No.

INS26-002452

Name of Building

Ware State Prison

1. Comment - Complaint Investigation Inspection conducted at above facility on Tuesday, June 23 2026, in reference to an anonymous complaint concerning steel rods barring exit doors closed. This inspection was conducted by Georgia State Fire Marshal's Office (GASFMO) Building Code Inspector James Holbrook and Building Inspections Supervisor Mitchell Williams. Inspector Holbrook and Supervisor Williams were accompanied by Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) Warden James C. Spann, Fire Chief Reynold Spradley, and additional GDC support staff. A tour of the facility was conducted and upon completion of the tour and inspection, the violations detailed below were observed on all housing buildings except for Building I. An exit interview was conducted by GASFMO Inspections Staff with GDC Staff and upon completion of this interview, GASFMO Inspections Staff exited the facility.
2. Violation - Doors from areas of refuge to the exterior shall be permitted to be locked with key locks in lieu of locking methods described in 23.2.11.1.8, the keys to unlock such doors shall be maintained and available at the facility at all times, and the locks shall be operable from the outside. 2024 NFPA 101 Chapter 23 Section 23.2.11.1.7.

GASFMO Inspections Staff observed barrel bolts on all fire exit doors on housing buildings. Prison staff explained that the barrel bolts are in use due to inmates popping the locks from inside the building. Prison staff also explained that inmates are not supposed to have access to these doors from inside the building. GDC Fire Chief Reynold Spradley explained that he has written up the barrel bolts and the key-operated locks have been repaired, but inmates tamper with the locks and pop them soon after repairs are made.