



OVERVIEW OF PREPAREDNESS ATTITUDE RELATED TO DISASTER RESPONSE FIRE DISASTER ON CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AT POHUWATO PRISON

GAMBARAN SIKAP KESIAPSIAGAAN TERKAIT PENANGGULANGAN BENCANA KEBAKARAN PADA PETUGAS PEMASYARAKATAN DI LAPAS POHUWATO

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Abstract

Fire incidents continue to be a major concern. Data from the International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF) in 2022, recorded > 1.3 million fire incidents worldwide each year, causing more than 15,000 deaths and economic losses. Fire disasters are one of the serious threats in various environments, including Correctional Institutions (Lapas). Prisons have a high potential risk of fire due to various factors, such as the use of unsafe electrical equipment, overcrowding, lack of adequate fire fighting facilities and riots that lead to fires. The purpose of the study was to determine the picture of the attitude of preparedness related to fire disaster management among correctional officers at Pohuwato Prison. The type of *quantitative descriptive* research, the population of all Correctional Officers at Pohuwato Prison recorded in 2024 was 71 people. Sampling used the *Non-Probability Sampling method* with the *Purposive Sampling technique*. The technique was chosen based on certain considerations according to the research criteria. A sample of 59 respondents was obtained. The single variable analyzed was related to the attitude of preparedness. Data were collected through questionnaires and analyzed using reliability and normality tests. The results of the study showed a picture of the attitude of preparedness of correctional officers with a sufficient category of 56 respondents (94.9%). It was concluded that the attitude of preparedness of correctional officers was still sufficient and there was a need for counseling or training related to fire disaster management at Pohuwato Prison.

Keywords : Attitude of Readiness



Abstrak

Kejadian kebakaran terus menjadi perhatian utama. Data International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF) tahun 2022, tercatat > 1,3 juta insiden kebakaran terjadi seluruh dunia setiap tahunnya, menyebabkan lebih dari 15.000 kematian dan kerugian ekonomi. Bencana kebakaran merupakan salah satu ancaman serius di berbagai lingkungan, termasuk Lembaga Pemasyarakatan (Lapas). Lapas memiliki potensi risiko kebakaran yang tinggi karena berbagai faktor, seperti penggunaan peralatan listrik yang tidak aman, kepadatan penghuni, kurangnya fasilitas penanggulangan kebakaran yang memadai serta kerusakan yang berujung kebakaran. Tujuan penelitian untuk mengetahui gambaran sikap kesiapsiagaan terkait penanggulangan bencana kebakaran pada petugas pemasyarakatan di Lapas Pohuwato. Jenis penelitian *deskriptif kuantitatif*, populasi seluruh Petugas Pemasyarakatan Lapas Pohuwato yang tercatat pada tahun 2024 sebanyak 71 orang. Pengambilan sampel menggunakan metode *Non-Probability Sampling* dengan teknik *Purposive Sampling*. Teknik dipilih berdasarkan pertimbangan tertentu sesuai kriteria penelitian. Diperoleh sampel sebanyak 59 responden. Variabel tunggal yang dianalisis terkait sikap kesiapsiagaan. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner dan dianalisis menggunakan uji *reabilitas dan normalitas*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan gambaran sikap kesiapsiagaan petugas pemasyarakatan dengan kategori cukup sebanyak 56 responden (94.9%). Disimpulkan bahwa sikap kesiapsiagaan petugas pemasyarakatan masih cukup dan perlu adanya penyuluhan atau pelatihan terkait penanggulangan bencana kebakaran di Lapas Pohuwato.

Kata Kunci : Sikap Kesiapsiagaan

1. INTRODUCTION

Globally, natural disasters continue to increase in both frequency and intensity. According to **UNDRR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction)**, Around 1.23 million people died due to disasters between 2000 and 2019. The most common natural disasters are **floods, storms, earthquakes, and forest fires**.

Globally, fire incidents continue to be a major concern. According to the International Association of Fire and Rescue Services (CTIF) 2022 report, more than 1.3 million fire incidents occur worldwide each year, causing more than 15,000 deaths and huge economic losses. Fires also rank as the third leading cause of domestic accidents in the world.

According to the BNPB report, in 2023, Indonesia experienced more than **1,500 disasters**, with the majority being hydrometeorological disasters. According to *World Bank data* (2021), around 40% of Indonesia's population lives in disaster-prone areas. This condition makes Indonesia vulnerable to the threat of geological disasters, as well as other disasters arising from climate change and human behavior that have an impact on environmental damage (Asriningtias & Aryanto, 2022).

In Indonesia, data from the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) shows that throughout 2022 there were more than 2,200 fires spread across various regions, most of which were caused by electrical short circuits and negligence in the use of cooking utensils. Based on WALHI data, forest fires in Indonesia increase almost every year. It can be seen that 2015 was the worst year for forest fires in Indonesia. Around 2.6 million hectares of forest burned, with the worst figures occurring in the provinces of Central Kalimantan, Papua, South Sumatra and



Riau. In 2016 there was a very significant decline, namely 438.3 thousand hectares of forest burned. In 2017 there was also a decline, namely only around 165 thousand hectares. However, this did not last long because in 2018 forest fires increased, namely around 510 thousand hectares. Meanwhile, in 2019, data collected until May, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry recorded that around 135 thousand hectares of forest fires in Indonesia were still occurring and dominated by the regions of Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua (Cahyadi et al., 2022) .

In Gorontalo Province, fire is one of the disasters that is often reported, with a total of 45 incidents in 2023 according to the Gorontalo BPBD report. Meanwhile, in Pohuwato Regency, BPBD noted that 15% of public facilities, including offices and public service facilities experienced moderate to high fire risks in the same year.

Fire disasters are one of the serious threats in various environments, including correctional institutions (prisons). Prisons have a high potential risk of fire due to various factors, such as the use of unsafe electrical equipment, overcrowding, lack of adequate fire fighting facilities and riots that can lead to fires. Data from the Directorate General of Corrections, Ministry of Law and Human Rights (2022) noted that over the past five years, there have been 25 cases of fire in prisons and detention centers throughout Indonesia, with the main causes being electrical short circuits and human negligence.

The potential for fire hazards in correctional institutions when combined with the lack of preparedness in prisons and the lack of necessary resources can result in the risk of injury not only to prisoners but also to public safety. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to fire prevention, especially in court facilities, this is because the conditions of the community in prisons are vulnerable to victimization because prisons are buildings that are designed in such a way that people in them cannot get out. Therefore, if a fire occurs, policies and actions are needed to protect the inmates who are being held and various important archives in the prison building (Sari Surya Prabawati Eva Wany, 2017) .

Pohuwato Regency has one correctional institution that serves as a place for the development of prisoners. Pohuwato Prison, like other prisons, faces the risk of fire that can occur at any time. Based on internal data from Pohuwato Prison, in the last five years there have been two small fire incidents caused by electrical short circuits.

This requires good preparedness from all elements of society, including government institutions, to minimize the risk and impact of disasters. This is because prisons have dense populations and limited physical conditions for evacuation.

However, it also has its own risks, especially in disaster-prone areas. These risks relate to the safety of prisoners, and correctional institutions in Indonesia face challenges such as overcrowding. However, frequent disasters have caused loss of life and material losses. If a disaster occurs, prisoners are locked in prison and cannot escape, making them very vulnerable (Herdiansyah & Kurniawan, 2023) .

Based on the results of initial interviews with five officers at Pohuwato Prison, it was found that 3 officers did not have special training related to fire disaster management. The



results of the initial survey showed that only 2 officers understood the procedures for using fire extinguishers and how to handle fire disasters in prisons.

This shows the need for research to identify the preparedness attitudes of correctional officers regarding fire disaster management at Pohuwato Prison.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Research was conducted at Class IIB Pohuwato Prison in December 2024. This type of research is *quantitative descriptive research*. The population in this study were all Correctional Officers at Pohuwato Prison recorded in 2024, totaling 71 people. The sampling method in this study used the *Non-probability sampling type* with the *Purposive sampling technique*.

The number of samples in this study was the entire population, namely Correctional Officers at Pohuwato Prison totaling 59 respondents.

Data collection using questionnaires by conducting direct interviews with respondents. Data analysis using the Normality test *p-value* (>0.7) and Reliability with *Cronbach Alpha* (0.825).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From all the respondents, a description of their characteristics is obtained in the following table:

Table 1 Respondent Characteristics by Age

No	Age	Number (n)	%
1	< 25 Years	5	8.47
2	25-35 Years	36	61
3	36-45 Years	15	25.4
4	>45 Years	3	5
Total		59	100

Source: Primary Data 2024

From the results of the study on the distribution of respondents based on age, it is known that of the 59 respondents, the largest age group was 25-35 years with a total of 36 respondents (61%).

**Table 2** Respondent Characteristics by Gender

No	Gender	Number (n)	%
1	Man	55	93.2
2	Woman	4	6.7
Total		59	100

Source: Primary Data 2024

From the results of the study, the distribution of respondents based on gender was found to be that of the 59 respondents, the largest gender was male with a total of 55 respondents (93.2%).

Table 3 Respondent Characteristics based on length of service

No	Length of Service in Prison	Number (n)	%
1	< 1 Year	1	1.69
2	1-5 Years	20	33.8
3	6-10 Years	21	35.5
4	>10 Years	17	28.8
Total		60	100

Source: Primary Data 2024

From the results of the study on the distribution of respondents based on length of service, it is known that of the 59 respondents, the largest group with length of service was 6-10 years with a total of 21 respondents (35.5%).

**Table 4** Respondent Characteristics Based on Last Education

No	Last education	Number (n)	%
1	High School/Vocational School	23	38.9
2	D3	0	0
3	S1	35	59.3
4	S2/S3	1	1.69
Total		59	100

Source: Primary Data 2024

From the results of the study on the distribution of respondents based on their last education, it is known that of the 59 respondents, the largest group with the last education was S1 with a total of 35 respondents (59.3%).

Table 5 Respondent Characteristics based on training attended.

No	Preparedness Training	Number (n)	%
1	Yes	56	94.9
2	No	3	5
Total		59	100

Source: Primary Data 2024

Univariate Analysis

Based on the research results, the following univariate analysis results were obtained:

**Table 6** Univariate Analysis

Readiness of Correctional Officers	Frequency	Percentage of Tase (%)
Not enough	2	3.38
Enough	56	94.9
Good	1	1.69
Total	59	100

This shows that most of the officers 94.9% have a sufficient attitude of preparedness , while 3.38% of officers have a **poor attitude** and only 1 officer with a percentage of 1.69% is **good** .

DISCUSSION

Readiness of Correctional Officers Regarding Fire Disaster Management at Pohuwato Prison

The results of the study showed that there was 1 officer (1.69%) who was in the good category, which reflects optimal preparedness. In the questionnaire item on attitudes towards preparedness, respondents fulfilled all the items asked in the questionnaire. This shows that officers have a positive attitude towards fire preparedness. This positive attitude indicates that officers are aware of the importance of preparedness in dealing with fire emergency situations and are ready to follow the procedures that have been determined.

In the questionnaire item of fire knowledge, officers are proficient in the use of APAR (Light Fire Extinguisher) and know the location of APAR in the prison environment as evidenced by the results of the questionnaire answered yes totaling 2. In the questionnaire item of physical and mental readiness, officers feel confident regarding their physical condition in responding and are ready to follow the evacuation procedures that have been prepared if a fire disaster occurs in the prison environment. In this item, officers answered yes to all questions. While in the questionnaire item of Preventive Behavior, officers comply with the regulations applied in the prison and actively participate in disaster prevention with the number of questions answered yes, namely 3 questions.

The results of the study showed that the readiness of officers was in the sufficient category with the number of officers being 56 (94.9%). This score indicates that almost all



officers felt sufficiently prepared. In the questionnaire item on attitudes towards preparedness, 56 respondents answered yes to the questionnaire regarding the importance of fire training to improve the readiness of officers in dealing with fire disasters.

In the fire knowledge questionnaire item, officers gave the most yes answers to questions related to procedures to be carried out in the event of a fire and what the steps are with a total distribution of answers of 31. In the physical and mental readiness questionnaire item, the most questionnaire answers related to the question of officers' confidence to act quickly in responding to fires with a total of 31 respondents. Meanwhile, in the Prevention Behavior questionnaire item, the results showed that 29 respondents stated yes to the questionnaire related to officers ensuring that evacuation routes are always free from obstacles that could disrupt the evacuation process in the event of a fire.

This lack of preparedness may be due to several factors, such as lack of adequate physical training, lack of psychological support or even uncertainty about their role in responding to prison fires.

Research by Wahyudi (2018) exploring the preparedness of correctional officers for fires in prisons, concluded that although some officers felt physically prepared, many felt uncertain or lacking in their mental preparedness to deal with emergency situations. This study highlights the importance of regular physical training and psychological support for officers to improve their preparedness.

In addition, research by Iskandar (2020) also shows that the physical and mental readiness of firefighters in correctional environments is often hampered by the lack of intensive physical training and the absence of an adequate psychological support system. This reflects the researcher's findings that although some officers feel ready, many still do not feel confident enough in dealing with fire situations.

Several factors that influence the physical and mental readiness of officers are their level of physical fitness, the frequency of physical training they participate in, and the psychological support provided. Officers who regularly exercise or participate in physical training are more likely to feel physically prepared. Meanwhile, mental readiness can be affected by work stress, fatigue levels, and the lack of psychological support available to officers. This shows that physical and mental readiness depends not only on technical training, but also on the overall physical and mental well-being of officers.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that Pohuwato Prison strengthen programs that support the physical and mental readiness of officers. Regular physical training programs and more intensive psychological support systems need to be introduced to ensure officers feel fully prepared. In addition, fire simulation training involving real-life situations can help officers prepare themselves physically and mentally in dealing with emergencies. Better psychological support will also help officers manage stress and improve their preparedness in stressful situations.



The results of the study showed that employee preparedness was in the less category with a total of 2 employees (3.38%). This means that officers have less preparedness regarding fires and how to deal with them.

In the questionnaire item on attitude towards preparedness, 1 respondent answered yes to the questionnaire related to preparedness for fire disasters, implementation of fire safety protocols and the main priority of implementing preparedness to be implemented in prisons. In the questionnaire item on knowledge about fire, 1 respondent answered yes to the question related to the location of the APAR, steps taken in the event of a fire and evacuation assembly points in prison. In the questionnaire item on physical and mental readiness, 1 respondent answered the questionnaire related to questions about the situation when a fire occurs and the willingness to follow the procedures prepared by the prison. Meanwhile, in the questionnaire item on Preventive Behavior, it was found that 2 respondents stated that they did not participate in the fire simulation activities organized by the prison.

This finding is in line with research conducted by Sutrisno (2017) on fire disaster preparedness in government agencies, finding that most officers still lack in-depth knowledge of fire procedures even though they know the basics of fire prevention. Another study by Pratama (2019) also stated that regular training and counseling are very important to ensure that officers have complete knowledge of fire management and are able to act quickly and appropriately in emergency situations.

Several factors that can affect the level of fire knowledge of officers include the frequency and quality of training provided, as well as their understanding of the types of fires and how to deal with them. Officers who have more experience in fire situations or have attended more intensive fire training tend to have better knowledge. In addition, the availability of comprehensive training materials also affects how good the knowledge is that officers have.

Based on these findings, it is recommended that Pohuwato Prison improve the quality and quantity of fire training provided to officers, especially by providing more in-depth material on practical fire-fighting procedures. More structured and ongoing training is expected to improve overall officer knowledge and ensure better preparedness in dealing with potential fires in the future.

Overall, this study provides a clear picture of the level of fire preparedness in Pohuwato Prison and highlights the importance of improving officer training and awareness in dealing with fire disasters. In the future, efforts to improve fire preparedness must involve a more holistic approach, including strengthening technical and non-technical training, as well as physical and psychological support for officers.

4. CONCLUSION CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study on the description of the attitude of preparedness related to fire disaster management among correctional officers at Pohuwato Prison, it can be concluded that most officers have sufficient understanding with the number of respondents 56 (94.9%).



However, although most officers already know the steps to be taken, there are still several areas that need to be improved, such as accuracy in action during a fire and the need for more intensive training.

SUGGESTION

1. For Correctional Officers

Correctional officers are expected to be more proactive in improving their knowledge and skills related to disaster management. Attending training and reading disaster management guides can be the first step to improving individual and collective preparedness.

2. For Pohuwato Prison

The prison is expected to hold regular training and firefighting simulations to improve the readiness of officers. In addition, adequate facilities and equipment need to be provided, such as fire extinguishers and clear evacuation routes.

3. For Further Research

Further researchers are advised to use more varied research methods, such as in-depth interviews or direct observation, to obtain more in-depth and accurate data. In addition, it is necessary to conduct counseling or training related to fire disaster management for correctional officers.

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