



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Work Release Inmate Placed on Escape Status

RAPID CITY, S.D- A state prison inmate has been placed on escape status after failing to return to a minimum-security unit from his work release job.

Randy Cowherd, age 45, was due back at the Rapid City Community Work Center earlier this evening following a shift at his work release job. Escape procedures were enacted when Cowherd failed to return at the designated time.

Cowherd is a white male, 6 feet 1 and approximately 145 pounds. He has brown hair and brown eyes.

Cowherd is currently serving a 9-year, 8-month sentence with 4-years suspended out of Pennington County for DWI 6th.

Anyone who sees Cowherd should contact local law enforcement immediately.

Failing to return to custody following an assignment or temporary leave constitutes second-degree escape, a class 5 felony, and is punishable by a maximum of five years in prison. South Dakota Codified Law 22-11A-5 states that any person who conceals any prisoner knowing that the prisoner has escaped is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

-30-

Our mission is to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts. To provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.