



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Winder
(605) 773-3478

Inmate Crew Helping Fight Red Point Fire

(Pierre) - A total of 118 state prison inmates are assisting with efforts to fight a fire in the southern Black Hills.

Eighty inmates from the Custer Trusty Unit were called to help fight the Red Point fire in Custer County on Tuesday, July 22nd. The same inmate crew returned to the fire scene again today. An additional 38 inmates from the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, Unit C of the Jameson Annex to the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, the Yankton Trusty Unit and Redfield Trusty Unit were on the fire lines overnight.

Over the weekend, inmate firefighters were utilized to help fight both the Crow Peak fire and the Bonato fire near Spearfish.

All of the inmates are wildland fire trained and certified firefighters.

Inmate crews worked more than 17-thousand hours as certified firefighters on twenty-three wildfires and forest fires in the state during 2002.

For more information on the inmate fire suppression work, go to the Department of Corrections website at http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/fire_suppression.htm.