



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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CONTACT: Michael Winder, SD DOC (605) 773-3478

Inmates Assist with Snow Removal in Rapid City

Pierre, S.D. - State prison inmates are assisting elderly and disabled residents in Rapid City following the recent snowfall.

Minimum-security inmates from the temporary Rapid City Trusty Unit were dispatched this morning to shovel snow for nearly a dozen elderly and disabled homeowners who were unable to clear the snow themselves or are financially unable to hire someone to do so for them.

The "Scoop It" snow removal program is coordinated through community resource organizations. In Rapid City, the United Way coordinates the effort and does a screening of those asking for the assistance and then informs the prison unit of the need. A correctional officer accompanies the inmate crew, which is made up of non-violent inmates who are nearing the end of their sentences.

The "Scoop It" program began in 2001 in Sioux Falls and Yankton.