



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

3200 East Highway 34, Pierre, SD 57501

Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Corrections Provides Prison Lockdown Summary

SIoux FALLS, S.D.- The South Dakota Department of Corrections (DOC) is providing a summary in response to the recently completed lockdown of the state prison facilities in Sioux Falls.

This was a proactive security measure that allowed staff to search for any items that posed a danger to staff or other offenders. The lockdown was not in response to an assault, fight, or disturbance – and no staff or inmates were injured.

“This lockdown was deemed a success, I am proud of our staff for conducting a thorough and comprehensive search,” said Secretary of Corrections Kellie Wasko.

Contraband includes any article, item, or thing that poses or may pose a threat to the security of a SDDOC facility or office. This can range from a device, instrument, material, or substance which is readily capable of causing or inducing fear of death or bodily injury to illicit substances such as controlled substances and alcohol. Although some of the items retrieved are tools used in the facility, if they are not stored or used for their intended purposes, they become contraband, and in some instances, dangerous contraband.

Items found during the lockdown included handmade weapons, other items that can be fashioned into or used as weapons, illicit substances, unauthorized electronic equipment, and excess property. Photos of some examples of the contraband seized are included.

Offenders are accountable for contraband found on or within their person, personal property, assigned work area, and living areas. Offenders who introduce these items into a DOC facility will be held accountable under the appropriate provisions of the DOC and the codified laws of this state.

DOC is continuing to investigate the outcomes of the lockdown and potentially lockdown any additional units for further investigations as needed. Any potential criminal activity is being referred to the Division of Criminal Investigation under the Attorney General.

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