



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Includes updated information on condition of inmate, staff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INMATE, STAFF INJURED IN FIRE AT DURFEE STATE PRISON

(Springfield) - A state prison inmate and two staff members were injured in a fire at the Durfee State Prison (DSP) in Springfield this afternoon. The fire has been contained to the automotive shop of one of the prison vocational buildings.

An explosion was reported just after 1:00 PM CT. Fire crews from Springfield and Tyndall are on scene. As of 4:30 PM CT, crews were still working to extinguish the fire.

Inmate Richard Nash, 61, suffered third degree burns on 40 to 50 percent of his head, chest and arms. Nash was initially transported by ambulance to Saint Michael's Hospital in Tyndall. He was later transported to Yankton and airlifted to the McKennan Hospital Burn Unit in Sioux Falls.

Shop foreman Ivan Ludens and Production Manager Kevin Burkman suffered smoke inhalation. Ludens was transported to the hospital in Tyndall by car. Burkman was transported by ambulance to Saint Michael's Hospital in Tyndall and later taken to Avera Queen of Peace Hospital in Mitchell.

The prison was placed on lockdown status so that an emergency count could be conducted. All of the other inmates and staff were accounted for.

The building involved in the fire is located on the north side of the prison grounds. The prison welding, upholstery, silk screening programs as well as the office for the Governor's Housing Project were also housed in that building.

Nash is serving an eight year sentence for second degree rape out of Meade County.

The state fire marshal's office is investigating the cause of the fire.