



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Inmates Assist with Black Hills Fires

(Pierre) - State prison inmates are among the firefighters along the fire lines in the Black Hills.

Forty inmates began assisting fighting a fire between Custer and Newcastle, Wyoming on Tuesday. The crew is made up of inmates from the Custer Trusty Unit.

Another 27 inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit were dispatched this morning to assist in fighting the Roger Shack fire south of Jewel Cave.

All of the inmates on the fire lines are Forest Service trained and certified firefighters. Correctional officers supervising the inmate crews are also trained and certified firefighters.

An additional sixty inmates in the prison system are trained and certified. They are available to assist with fire suppression efforts if needed.

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