



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inmates Assist in Fighting Black Hills Fire

(Pierre) - State prison inmates are once again along the fire lines in the southern Black Hills.

Forty inmates housed at the Custer Trusty Unit began assisting in fighting a fire south of Hot Springs late Wednesday.

Another 39 inmates from the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, 12 inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit and two from the Redfield Trusty Unit were dispatched Thursday to assist in fighting the fire.

Sixteen Department of Corrections staff members are supervising the inmate crews.

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.

Earlier this summer, inmates put in a total of 6,342 hours on the Roger's Shack and Elk Mountain fires in the Black Hills.

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.