



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Governor Janklow Deploys Inmate Crews to Fight Black Hills Fire

(Pierre) - Governor Bill Janklow has deployed state prison inmates to assist with fighting the Battle Creek fire in the Black Hills.

One hundred thirty-eight inmates are assisting with fire-fighting efforts near Rockerville. The crew is made up of 80 inmates from the Custer Trusty Unit, 27 inmates from the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, 14 inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit, 14 inmates from Unit C of the Jameson Annex of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls and 3 inmates from the Redfield Trusty Unit.

All of the inmates on the fire lines are Forest Service trained and certified firefighters.

Inmate crews have worked more than 17-thousand hours as certified firefighters on twenty-two wildfires and forest fires in the state during the past year, including the Grizzly Gulch Fire near Deadwood earlier this summer.

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.