



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **State Prison Inmates Called to Help Fight Fire Near Aberdeen**

(Pierre) - State prison inmates are being called in to assist with fire fighting and suppression efforts in northeastern South Dakota.

Thirteen inmates and two staff members from the Yankton Trusty Unit and six inmates and one staff member from the Redfield Trusty Unit have been called to help fight a grass fire east of Aberdeen. The inmates will also clear dead trees in the area in an effort to remove potential fuel from the fire line.

All of the inmates are wildland fire trained and certified firefighters.

Inmate crews worked more than 17-thousand hours as certified firefighters on twenty-three wildfires and forest fires in the state during 2002.

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](http://www.state.sd.us/corrections/fire_suppression.htm).