



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

ADMINISTRATION

3200 East Highway 34
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070
Phone: (605) 773-3478
Fax: (605) 773-3194

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 6, 2005

CONTACT: Michael Winder, SD DOC (605) 773-3478

Inmates Assist with Snow Removal in Sioux Falls, Yankton

Pierre, S.D. - State prison inmates are assisting elderly and disabled residents in Sioux Falls and Yankton following this week's snowstorm.

Minimum-security inmates from Unit C of the Jameson Annex of the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls were dispatched this morning to shovel snow for nearly three dozen elderly and disabled homeowners who were unable to clear the snow themselves or are financially unable to hire someone to do so for them.

A crew of 8 minimum-security inmates from the Yankton Trusty Unit is assisting 55 elderly and disabled homeowners with snow removal today.

The "Scoop It" snow removal program is coordinated through community resource organizations in the respective communities. In Sioux Falls, the HelpLine Center coordinates the effort, while the Senior Citizens Center does the same in Yankton. The organizations do a screening of those asking for the assistance and then inform the prison units of the need.

A correctional officer accompanies the inmate crew, which is made up of non-violent inmates who are nearing the end of their sentences.

The "Scoop It" program began in 2001.