



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Prison Inmate Dies

Sioux Falls, S.D.- A state prison inmate has died.

Inmate Leo Christensen, age 59, became ill at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield Sept. 2. He was transported by ambulance and then airlifted to a Sioux Falls hospital, where he died Sept. 3.

Christensen was sentenced out of Minnehaha County in February 2003 to 50 years in prison for first-degree arson.

An autopsy is being conducted.

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Our mission is to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts. To provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.