

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Penitentiary Lockdown Update

SIoux FALLS, S.D.- Initial searches of the South Dakota State Penitentiary and Jameson Annex this week have resulted in the identification and confiscation of dangerous and illicit contraband.

Some of the items found include handmade weapons, other items that can be fashioned into or used as weapons, and unauthorized electronics equipment. Photos are attached.

The offenders housed in the Sioux Falls prison facilities were locked down beginning on September 15th. This lockdown was a proactive security measure to implement a full campus search and seizure for dangerous contraband. It was not a response to an assault, fight, or disturbance – and no staff or inmates are injured. The lockdown status remains in place at this time.

Phone service for offenders is being managed, including periods of time when phone service is disabled, for the duration of the lockdown. Offenders are receiving all meals and prescribed medications in their cells. Offenders do have access to commissary services as well as medical and mental health professionals during the lockdown period.

“The safety of our staff is the number one priority,” said DOC Secretary Kellie Wasko. “The lockdown will continue until the search of the entire complex is complete.”

Any potential criminal activity is being referred to DCI. We will continue to provide updates as warranted.

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