

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

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PRESS RELEASE

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Inmate Fire Crews Respond to the Eagle Draw Fire

(Santa Fe)- At approximately 1:45 pm today Crews 703 and 704 from State Forestry's Inmate Work Camp from the Department of Corrections deployed to assist the New Mexico Forestry Division in fighting the Eagle Draw Fire southwest of Artesia, New Mexico.

The crews will assist other crews by constructing containment lines, removing flammable vegetation ahead of the fire, and with mopping up of the burn area."

The program for training and using minimum custody inmates to assist the Forestry Division in conducting natural resource projects and fighting wildfires began as a pilot project at Central New Mexico Correctional Facility in 1996 and was incorporated into the Department's community service mission in 1997. There are currently five crews with a total of sixty inmates participating in the program.

For reporters interested in taking video or pictures of the inmate fire crews at work, please call Joni Brown at (505) 629-7046 to schedule a time.

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