



NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Inmates fill sandbags for northern New Mexico burn scars

Partnership with NMDOT, DHSEM, and NMCD

Santa Fe – Inmates at the level two facility at the Penitentiary of New Mexico (PNM) have worked to fill tens of thousands of sandbags for the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak burn scar area in northern New Mexico. This marks the second year for the program. Ten inmates with good conduct records were assigned to the program this year, and together, they were able to fill 200 to 300 sandbags per day. Due to a lack of rainfall, the inmate operation has ended for this monsoon season. However, hundreds of sandbags sit ready to be dispersed as needed.

“The inmates like to do this, they enjoy being out here and helping the community in need. They really enjoy it.” **Ralph Rodriguez, Deputy Warden at the Penitentiary of New Mexico**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHSEM) and the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) are partners with the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) in this program. DHSEM provides NMCD with the sand, sandbags, and other supplies; NMDOT then distributes the pallets to the burn scar areas in northern New Mexico.

Broll: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/24nyv72vasevflp/Sandbags%20at%20PNM.mov?dl=0>



Photo of sandbags at PNM