



MEDIA RELEASE

HAMLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Incident Code:	Tractor Fire Spreads to Shelterbelt		
Date of Call:	Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026		
Time of Call:	04:18pm CDT		
Location:	Near US Highway 81 and 184th Street		
Details:	<p>CASTLEWOOD, SD - On April 22, 2026, at approximately 4:18 p.m., Watertown Regional Dispatch received a 911 call reporting a tractor on fire near the intersection of U.S. Highway 81 and 184th Street in rural Castlewood.</p> <p>A Conservation Officer with the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks, who was in the area, responded and checked on the incident. It was reported that the fire was rapidly spreading north across a field due to strong south winds and was moving toward a nearby residence's shelterbelt. The Conservation Officer warned the residents about the fire.</p> <p>The Castlewood Fire Department, Hamlin County Emergency Management, and the Hamlin County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the scene. As the fire continued to spread and entered the shelterbelt, the Castlewood Fire Department requested mutual aid from the Hayti Fire Department.</p> <p>Fire crews worked for nearly two hours to contain and extinguish the blaze. U.S. Highway 81 was temporarily shut down at times to allow firefighters to safely manage the fire.</p> <p>The tractor driver escaped without injury, but the tractor was a total loss.</p>		
Any defendant(s) listed are presumed innocent under the U.S. Constitution.			
AUTH/	A2	C/	2614067



