

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-06**

**WHEREAS**, The State of South Dakota has been impacted by red flag fire conditions brought on by the lack of moisture and very strong winds; and,

**WHEREAS**, Limited moisture has delayed spring green up and has led to an increase in fire risk and severity; and,

**WHEREAS**, The "79 Fire" that started in Custer County has grown to over 5,000 acres and continued to grow and threaten structures; and,

**WHEREAS**, Weather conditions will not be favorable over the next 72 hours to contain the fire; and,

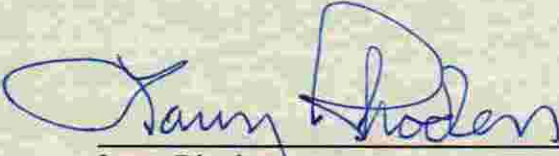
**WHEREAS**, The 79 Fire, located outside of the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District covered by Executive Order 2025-03 authorization for automatic deployment of state resources, requires resources from the State to combat the fire to get it controlled and contained, and to protect property:

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LARRY RHODEN**, Governor of the State of South Dakota, under provisions of SDCL 34-48A, otherwise known as the Emergency Management law, do hereby declare that a state of emergency was declared to exist in southwestern South Dakota on Saturday, April 11th for immediate action.

**IT IS FURTHER DECLARED**, Resources available within state government since April 11th are to be utilized in coordination with the Department of Public Safety in support of local government efforts for the protection of lives and property in the affected counties and are to be paid from the state fire suppression special revenue fund according to SDCL 41-20A-8.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota this 13th day of April, 2026.



  
Larry Rhoden  
Governor

Attest:

  
Monae L. Johnson  
Secretary of State