

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-10**

WHEREAS, The State of South Dakota continues to be impacted by drought, brought on by warm temperatures, lack of moisture, and very strong winds; and,

WHEREAS, 90% of the State continues to experience drought conditions, which has dried vegetation across the State to record levels, increasing the likelihood and severity of wildfires, and lightening from severe thunderstorms has caused numerous ignitions and has exhausted available local resources; and,

WHEREAS, The drought emergency continued on August 10, 2026 when the Bear Butte Fire started in Meade County and rapidly grew to over 400 acres, threatening structures and thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts attending the 86th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, and other recent fires in Pennington, Perkins, and Meade Counties rapidly grew and threatened structures or burned large areas; and,

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2025-03 authorizes deployment and augmentation of state resources to the South Dakota Wildland Fire Division which help combat and rapidly suppress wildland fires and protect property in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, where so far this year, there have been 175 fires, burning approximately 19,000 acres in the District; and,

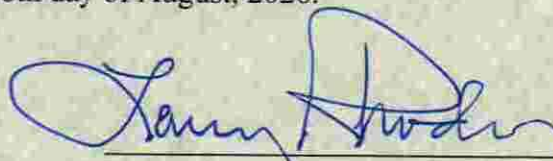
WHEREAS, Executive Order 2026-08 declared that a state of drought emergency exists:

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, affirm the continuing state of drought emergency exists statewide that requires the augmentation of state resources for wildland fire outside the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, specifically that state aerial firefighter resources may be utilized in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, to local government efforts in the protection of lives and property in accordance with SDCL § 34-48A-5 during and following an initial attack and be paid from the state fire suppression special revenue fund according to SDCL § 41-20A-8.

IT IS FURTHER ordered that the drought emergency, declared by Executive Order 2026-08, is extended to and shall expire on November 15, 2026.

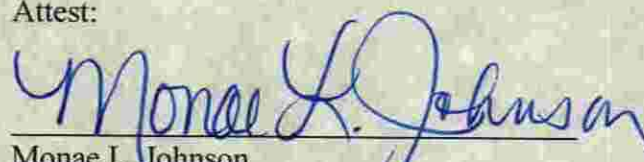
Dated in Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of August, 2026.





Larry Rhoden
Governor

Attest:



Monae L. Johnson
Secretary of State