



# DESERT REGION FireSafe

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## "Smokey the Bear Fire Danger Sign" Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into on this 28th day of August 2024 by and between HDEAA Nonprofit Corporation DBA Desert Region Fire Safe (hereinafter referred to as "DRFS") and the Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department (hereinafter referred to as "MVCSD").

### I. Purpose

This MOU aims to establish a collaborative partnership between DRFS and MVCSD for the organization, design, installation, maintenance, and ownership responsibilities of a "Smokey the Bear Fire Danger Sign" in Morongo Valley. The sign will be installed in place of the existing dilapidated sign on Highway 62's south side at approximately 34.04471394936768, -116.58282744211107 for maximum visibility to visitors entering Morongo Valley from the low desert.

### II. Roles and Responsibilities

#### 1. Desert Region Fire Safe (DRFS) Responsibilities:

- Procurement and Ownership: DRFS will procure and maintain the ownership of the Smokey the Bear Fire Danger Sign.
- Design and Installation: DRFS shall organize, design, and oversee the installation of the sign at the specified location.
- Major Repairs: DRFS shall control and be responsible for any major repairs to the sign, including any structural or functional aspects beyond routine maintenance.
- Compliance: DRFS will ensure that the sign design and installation comply with all relevant regulations and standards, including those set forth by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), CalTrans, and other applicable agencies. This includes securing necessary approvals from relevant right-of-way authorities as appropriate.

#### 2. Morongo Valley Community Services District and Fire Department (MVCSD) Responsibilities:

- Maintenance of Fire Danger Levels: MVCSD shall regularly update the current fire danger level on the sign per information provided by reliable sources such as the U.S. Weather Service, U.S. Forest Service, or CalFire.
- Monitoring and Upkeep: MVCSD will monitor the sign's condition and ensure that it remains visible and functional. This includes maintaining its visibility, clearing brush, and addressing any minor issues. Any repairs or maintenance beyond routine upkeep shall be promptly reported to DRFS.
- Rider Signage Changes: MVCSD will be responsible for changing rider signs as applicable, such as updating to reflect conditions like "Fire Ban - No Burning" or "Fire Restrictions in Place," based on current fire danger conditions.

### III. Duration

This MOU shall remain in effect in perpetuity, commencing on the date of signature by both parties.

### IV. Amendments

The parties' mutual written agreement may amend this MOU at any time. Any amendments shall be documented in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both parties.

### V. Termination

Either party may terminate this MOU upon 90 days written notice to the other party. Upon termination, MVCSD's nameplate on the sign shall be removed, and future maintenance of the sign will be fully explored in good faith before its removal.

### VI. Indemnification

Each party agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other party, its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, damages, losses, and expenses arising out of or resulting from the performance of this MOU, except to the extent that such claims, liabilities, damages, losses, and costs resulting from the negligence or willful misconduct of the other party.

### VII. Signatories

Authorized representatives of both parties shall sign this MOU.

Justin Merino

Brittany Chavez

Signed by:  
  
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HDEAA Nonprofit Corp  
 Executive Director  
 8/28/2024

## HIGH DESERT EMERGENCY ACTION ALLIANCE

A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to community collaboration and empowerment in emergency preparedness, wildfire resilience, public health, environmental sustainability, and community resilience.

www.desertfire.org