

Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	25-0002 Winter Weather 06JAN
Date	January 13, 2025
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	7:00 AM January 12 to 8:00 AM January 13, 2025
Report Number	5

Regions Affected	
TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, and 7
DDs Active	None

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On January 13, The State Operations Center maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions). All Disaster District Emergency Operations Centers (DDEOC) have returned to a Level IV (Normal Operations).

On January 10, Governor Greg Abbott <u>encouraged</u> Texans impacted by this week's winter weather to document and report any property damages sustained from ice, snow, and excessive rainfall by utilizing the Texas Division of Emergency Management's online, self-reported damage assessment tool.

Texans are encouraged to remain weather aware, monitor local weather forecasts, and follow directions from local officials. Texans can find winter weather resources, including warming center information and a map of licensed plumbers, in the Texas Disaster
Portal at tdem.texas.gov.

On January 9, Governor Abbott <u>directed</u> the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to activate state emergency response resources ahead of anticipated heavy rainfall in East and Southeast Texas beginning today.

On January 8, Governor Greg Abbott <u>provided an update</u> on Texas' ongoing response to severe winter weather that had impacted large portions of the state following a briefing with state officials at the State Operations Center in Austin.

On January 7, Governor Abbott <u>directed</u> the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to increase the readiness level of the Texas State Operations Center (SOC) to Level II (Escalated Response) ahead of winter weather expected to impact the state. The most significant impacts will occur from January 7 through the weekend.

On January 6, the Governor <u>directed TDEM</u> to activate state emergency response resources in anticipation of severe winter weather.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

- 1. Protect life and property.
- 2. Support rapid & effective response.
- 3. Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
- 4. Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1 (Includes DDs 1, 2, and 7):

DD 1 – Amarillo (Includes Armstrong, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Collingsworth, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Donley, Gray, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Swisher, and Wheeler Counties): Disaster District Emergency Operations Center (DDEOC) 1 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions as of January 11.

DD 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties): DDEOC 2 Moved to Level IV Normal Conditions as of January 10.

DD 7 – Abilene (Includes Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Throckmorton, and Taylor Counties): DDEOC 7 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions as of January 11.

Region 2 (Includes DDs 3, 4, and 22):

DD 3—Wichita Falls (Includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties): DDEOC 3 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions as of January 10.

DD 4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth (Includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties) DDEOC 4 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions as of January 11.

DD 22 – Sherman (Includes Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties): DDEOC 22 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions on January 11.

Region 3 (Includes DDs 5, 6, 14, and 15):

DD 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties) Disaster District Emergency Operations Center (DDEOC) 5 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions on January 11.

DD 6 – Tyler (Includes Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties): DDEOC 6 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions as of January 12.

Region 7 (Includes DDs 8, 9, and 10):

DD 8 – El Paso (Includes Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties): DDEOC 8 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions on January 10.

DD 9 – Midland/Ft. Stockton (Includes Andrews, Borden, Crane, Dawson, Ector, Gaines, Glasscock, Howard, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, and Winkler Counties): DDEOC 9 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions on January 12.

DD 10 – San Angelo (Includes Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green Counties): DDEOC 10 returned to Level IV Normal Conditions on January 10.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, The Texas A&M University System (TDEM)

Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

TDEM ESF 2 / Communications Coordination Group (CCG) partners are monitoring the situation and preparing resources in the event of communications outages. Our partners across the public, private, and volunteer sectors are assessing and adjusting their resources accordingly.

Our cellular partners continue topping off fixed generators and charging backup batteries. Additional support resources have been staged to provide additional backup resources. Crews are staged to respond to repair damaged transmission lines if necessary. Networks are being adjusted to support increased capacity as needed. Continue preparations to ensure backup power or restoration actions will be in place if required. They are also coordinating with our neighboring states regarding any issues that could impact Texas.

Amateur radio operations coordination continues to identify and activate local VHF / UHF repeater networks along the forecasted areas, as necessary. Texas Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) operators are being briefed on the situation and are standing by to support their DDEOCs if required. Texas Amateur Radio RACES program is currently supporting multiple DDEOCS / EOCs, including Disaster Districts 3, 11,12,22, and the SOC. Coordination is also ongoing with other Amateur Radio groups, including the 7290 Net, to provide coverage in East Texas and neighboring states.

The Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is reaching out to its PSAP / 9-1-1 partners. There are no current issues, but the commission is monitoring for any impacts to power supporting PSAP facilities.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC) is monitoring the current situation to provide frequency coordination if necessary. It is also coordinating emergency communications status/operations with neighboring states should there be a need to provide Emergency Communication (EMCOMM) assistance.

Incident Support Task Force (ISTF):

ISTF is tracking 20 public shelters and 348 warming centers that are open statewide for anyone affected by the cold weather.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

AgriLife Extension Service DDEOC representatives continue to monitor DDEOC activations virtually and are attending daily briefings for situational awareness. AgriLife liaisons are supporting the DD 22 activation in person. AgriLife DAR PIO continues to push winter recovery messaging via agency social media accounts, share information on www.texashelp.tamu.edu portal.

Two AgriLife Extension SOC liaisons have been monitoring weather conditions and monitoring SOC response activity since Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Disaster Assessment and Recovery agents and County Extension Strike Team members are on standby to support any ESF11 efforts associated with animal response or other winter weather response efforts as requested.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):

Texas A&M Forest Service resources have been released by TxDOT in Brownwood, San Angelo, Weatherford, and partial release in Paris. Personnel working the Midnight-Noon shift in Paris were released at noon on January 11; those working the Noon-Midnight shift were released at midnight on January 12. Resources have been released from Fredericksburg. One SOC Point of Contact will remain available until the incident is terminated.

Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC):

As of January 10, outages peaked at about 40,000 statewide, with the majority of these in the NE Texas/Texarkana area in the territories of SWEPCO and Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative. As of 3:00 P.M., there were about 23,000 outages remaining in the state, with about 9,700 in SWEPCO and 7,400 in BCEC, respectively. Bowie-Cass Electric Cooperative and SWEPCO expect the bulk of restoration to occur January 11, and into Sunday, while some individual outliers in the more remote regions may take longer.

ERCOT expects sufficient power to meet demand throughout the event, and the PUC and ERCOT will continue to monitor the weather and provide updates as we have them.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) began staffing the SOC on January 8, 2025. Livestock inspectors are positioned across the state, connecting with local animal response partners, and maintaining situational awareness to address animal issues as needed. TAHC continues to monitor weather forecasts, communicate with ESF11 support agencies, and is maintaining a readiness posture to respond to any requests for assistance. Currently, there have been no reports of animal issues or unmet needs. Any delays or closures will be announced on the TAHC website. TAHC Communications is sharing TDEM/TXDOT social media posts and winter weather awareness/preparatory material with animal agriculture stakeholders. Guidance on caring for animals in winter weather will also be posted throughout this event.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has placed agency emergency management staff and emergency response hazmat contractors on heightened readiness for possible deployment to assist with any air/water/waste-related issues, including drinking water/wastewater issues and/or emergency response activities. TCEQ has sent notifications to Public Drinking Water Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities to remind operators of regulatory guidance, procedures, and preparedness steps to take ahead of approaching winter weather.

Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR):

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) has raised the readiness level of the State Operations Center (SOC) to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) in response to the continued winter weather affecting most of Texas. TDLR stands ready to assist as requested.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

The DPS Amarillo District collaborated with our TxDOT partners with the westbound lanes of IH-40 as it was closed to travel. Troopers searched for disabled and stranded motorists on the roadway and assisted, as necessary. The westbound lanes of IH-40 reopened at 11 am on Friday, January 10. The northern counties of DPS Region 1, near the Red River, reported iced bridges, but precipitation was leaving the area.

On January 9, On-Star reported a distressed and disoriented driver in Deaf Smith Co. DPS collaborated with the Deaf Smith County Sheriff's Office, TDEM field personnel in Amarillo, and TxDOT to locate the driver. The individual was found and delivered to a warming station in Adrian.

On January 9, DPS Colonel Freeman Martin issued a declaration which granted exemptions to motor carriers in Texas delivering propane and home heating oils from maximum drive time regulations. This exemption will end prior to midnight on January 15.

DPS continues to maintain communication with the various DPS Field Majors and Captains in the impacted areas, primarily the DFW area and panhandle regions for status updates.

Texas Highway Patrol (THP) personnel assigned to the North Texas Tollway Authority provide their normal 24-hour coverage, monitor traffic, respond to crashes, and assist stranded motorists. In the THP El Paso District, personnel worked alongside TxDOT at the Vista location to monitor highway cameras along the interstate.

THP Abilene and Wichita Falls Districts are closely monitoring traffic and road conditions to ensure public safety. The THP Chief's office is providing support to the State Operations Center.

THP personnel are working with their perspective DDEOCs currently activated.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has one staff member supporting the State Operations Center, monitoring conditions and impacts to both regulated and operated facilities.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD has seven Winter Weather MRPs (WW MRP) and 1 BNMC MRP to assist stranded motorists and conduct welfare checks on selected motorways. The WW MRPs are staged in Pecos, Mineral Wells, Texarkana, Denison, Kerrville, Abilene, and Brownwood. The BNMC will be in Fort Worth. Military District Coordinators have been activated for Disaster Districts 5 and 22. The SOC Support Team supports the State Operations Center Winter Weather Operations in Austin. TMD has activated up to 172 personnel and 61 vehicles in support of 25-0002 Winter Weather 06JAN.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has prepared department resources consisting of Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers ready to support as needed in response to the severe winter weather threats throughout the State. TPWD continues to work closely with TDEM and other state/federal partners through the State Operations Center to ensure TPWD resources and first responders are available should they be needed. TPWD personnel are continuously being advised of the current weather conditions and maintaining a state of readiness.

TPWD has Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers prepared to respond to areas affected by severe weather conditions and support operations as needed.

TPWD Statewide resources available include Liaison to the SOC, 4x4 Vehicles, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) drones, and Helicopter 1 (Austin).

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

There are currently 278 locations on state roads impacted with snow and ice. TxDOT Crews in the Amarillo, Dallas, and Paris Districts continue to patrol and treat roads. TxDOT urges motorists to allow ample room for equipment and operators for the safety of everyone on the roads. There have been six incidents with TxDOT crews and third parties that resulted in the hospitalization of a TxDOT employee.

There was some re-freezing of roadways that affected US-75 in Grayson County, but the roadway is now open. IH-40 from Amarillo to the New Mexico state line opened at 10:30 on January 10. TxDOT has released TMD and TAMFS support teams in Brownwood, Fredericksburg, San Angelo, Weatherford, and Paris. TxDOT EOC & local EOC's across the state have begun to stand down and returning to normal operations as roads/threats diminish.

Over the January 4-5 weekend, 700 employees conducted pretreating operations with over 500,000 gallons of brine and approximately 800 cubic yards of granular material. TxDOT districts and toll partners will continue to pretreat roads, bridges, and overpasses, emphasizing the state's Tier I highways.

Additional TxDOT crews deployed to support northern districts. Check <u>DriveTexas.org</u> for the most current road conditions & safety advisories. TxDOT urges motorists to allow ample room for equipment and operators for the safety of everyone on the roads.

Texas Department of State Health Services: The Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) returned to Level IV Normal Conditions on January 10.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC):

On January 11, ARC State Liaisons and ARC regions returned to normal operations.

ARC is activated supporting warming centers and sheltering in response to cold weather. Feeding partners are on standby for requests to support outside normal operations. ARC has identified Kingwood Baptist Church and St. Timothy Lutheran Church in response to a request from Harris County to establish warming centers to be on standby. Two shelter teams are on standby to standup warming centers if activated. Fort Bend County supported a warming center at Attack Poverty - Friends of North Rosenberg overnight and provided 60 blankets and 30 cots. ARC volunteers staffed the warming center. Newton and Jasper Counties have provided 20 blankets each. The City of Amarillo has opened a warming center at the Wolfforth Recreation Center in Amarillo, TX, with ARC providing 100 blankets. The city of Carrollton identified a shelter at Rosemead Recreation Center but will only be opened if there are major sustained power outages in Carrollton. The city of Alvarado in Johnson County established a shelter located at First Baptist Church. The shelter will be ARC-managed and will open on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, and will be utilized for stranded motorists.

Texans on Mission (TXM)

TXM has set up the mass feeding team in Dallas to assist with hot meals in the DFW area. To date, TXM has prepared 10,750 meals. TXM has opened Congregate Sheltering/Centers across the state for anyone affected by the cold weather conditions.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
AgriLife	SOC LNO	2	2	Assigned	SOC
AgriLife	AgriLife Administration	2	0	Assigned	College Station
AgriLife	Marketing & Communications	2	0	Assigned	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialist	25	15	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	8	2	2 Assigned 8 Activated	Statewide
DSHS	SCO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SOC LNO	2	0	Assigned	SOC
ISTF	VOAD	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAHC	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAHC	TAHC Emergency Management	2	0	Assigned	Virtual
TAMFS	SOC LNO	1	1	Assigned	SOC
TDLR	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TEA	SOC LNO	2	0	Activated	SOC
TMD	BNMC	36	5	Assigned	Fort Worth5

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TMD	WW 01	18	8	Assigned	Pecos
TMD	WW 02	18	8	Assigned	Mineral Wells
TMD	WW 03	18	8	Assigned	Texarkana
TMD	WW 04	18	8	Assigned	Denison
TMD	WW 05	18	8	Assigned	Kerrville
TMD	WW06	18	8	Assigned	Abilene
TMD	WW 07	18	8	Assigned	Brownwood
TMD	SOC Support Team	8	0	Assigned	SOC
TMD	MDC	1	0	Assigned	Sherman
TMD	MDC	1	0	Activated	Mt Pleasant
TPWD	Game Wardens/State Park Police	500	500 (4X4 Vehicles)	Available	Statewide
TPWD	UAS	30	30	Available	Statewide
TPWD	Helicopter	2	2	Available	Austin
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Response Staff	4,169	1,001	Assigned	Statewide

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues monitoring the situation and will provide additional reports as needed.

The four levels of SOC activation are:

- Level I (Emergency Conditions)
- Level II (Escalated Response Conditions)
- Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)
- Level IV (Normal Conditions)

This Situation Report can be found on the TDEM webpage at: https://tdem.texas.gov/response/state-operations-center#tab-2

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