



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	February 21, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM February 20, 2026, to 8:00 AM February 21, 2026
Report Number	4

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 8
DDs Active	1 & 12

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On February 19, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a request from the State of Texas for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the 8 Ball Fire that started in Armstrong County and entered Donley County, which has threatened homes and infrastructure in the Panhandle area and has prompted local evacuations.

On February 17, Gov. Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to increase the readiness level of the Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) to Level II (Escalated Response) ahead of critical wildfire danger anticipated across portions of the western half of Texas.

On February 15, Gov. Abbott announced that he directed TDEM to activate additional state wildfire response resources in anticipation of elevated-to-critical fire weather conditions in large areas of South, West, and Northwest Texas.

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 decreased to Level III \(Increased Response Conditions\) on February 20.](#)

Armstrong and Donley Counties: The 8 Ball Fire has burned 13,500 acres and is 70% contained.

Hartley County: The Korn Fire burned 275 acres and is contained.

Hutchinson County: The Canadian Bridge Fire has burned 428 acres and is contained.

Jones County: The Landfill Fire burned 87 acres and is contained.

Lipscomb County: The Haystack Fire burned 106 acres and is contained.

Oldham County: The Lavender Fire has burned 18,423 acres and is [50%](#) contained.

DD 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties): [DDEOC 2 returned to Level IV \(Normal Conditions\) on February 20.](#)

Hale County: The Arbor Fire burned 127 acres and is contained.

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 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 17.

Clay County: The Spot Line Fire has burned 34 acres and is 90% contained.

Region 8 (Includes DDs 11, 12, 13, and 23)

DD 12 – Austin (Includes Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties): DDEOC 12 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 20.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

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

Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

Cellular providers continue to monitor tower sites and top off backup generators. Backup cellular platforms are on standby to deploy. The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reported resources in the Panhandle have sufficient backup power and fuel for 4-5 days. DPS currently has no known power outages.

The Texas Association of Broadcasters (TAB) reports that the KAMR (NBC) TV Station in Amarillo is on the air running on generator power. In Hereford, KPAN-AM/FM is on the air and has backup generators at both the transmitter and studio. If they lose power, they will update via social media.

Optimum Communications reports four broadband sites in the Panhandle have backup power and can remain operational during extended power outages. Two other sites are having backup generators installed.

On February 18, Potter County used the FEMA Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) system to issue an Evacuation Warning for residents located Northwest of Amarillo with the alert providing information on the shelters supporting the evacuation operations. PBS WARN was used to monitor alerts that were issued by neighboring states for potential threats to cross state borders and enter Texas. The Alerts were shared with impacted TDEM Regions and State partners.

Incident Support Task Force (ISTF):

Mass Care:

Mass Care continues to monitor potential activities and [provide sporadic feeding support](#). [As of February 20, four feeding sites have provided a total of 1115 meals in partnership with American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.](#)

Education:

TDEM maintains communications with public university systems, who confirmed they are monitoring the weather and have no disruptions to their normal operations and no unmet needs.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service Public Works Response Team (TX/PWRT):

PWRT continues to support and coordinate operations from the SOC and are monitoring requests for service.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

As of February 20, 24 Disaster Assessment and Recovery Specialists and three Area Chiefs are on standby to support wildfire response efforts. AgriLife DDEOC representatives are monitoring DDEOC activations in affected regions virtually and are attending daily briefings for situational awareness. AgriLife has one representative in person at DDEOC 1.

The Potter County Extension Agent continues to survey damage and livestock needs with local officials. On February 19, an Animal Evacuation and Response Team was deployed to assist in the evacuation of livestock near the Lavender Fire, Potter County. Animals will be transported to the Wildorado Livestock Auction for sheltering.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):

TAMFS has pre-positioned heavy equipment, engines, and aircraft across regions impacted by elevated fire weather conditions. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, and Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS) messaging is underway. A targeted public awareness campaign is being conducted in the Panhandle region to include billboard messaging and outreach through local and regional news media. In total, TAMFS has 743 personnel committed to the event.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

DPS personnel in Lubbock and Amarillo Districts are actively monitoring weather and traffic conditions, with particular attention to high-profile vehicles that may be affected by high winds. Additionally, DPS Amarillo and DPS Lubbock are providing staffing support from their perspective of DDEOCs. The Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Chief's Office is providing staffing support at the SOC. THP Troopers in the Panhandle are monitoring weather conditions and are ready to assist when requested. They are working their

regular duty hours.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD is supporting TAMFS in suppressing wildland fires in Texas. TMD has activated 30 personnel and three aircraft in support of 26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

Texas Game Wardens have identified resources ready to support as needed in response to the increased Wildfire Threat affecting the State of Texas. TPWD Game Wardens are working closely with TDEM and other partners through the SOC to ensure resources are available should they be needed. TPWD is staffing the SOC and activated DDEOCs in Lubbock and Amarillo.

Texas Game Wardens have responded to multiple wildfires in TDEM Region 1 and supported local Law Enforcement with evacuations for the 8-Ball, Lavender, and Spade wildfire, along with traffic control. In total, TPWD has assisted 100 people to evacuate.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

As of February 19, state-maintained roads are open and have no impact. TxDOT crews have closed the right lanes of US-87 north of Amarillo to allow access for firefighting operations. TxDOT Emergency Management staff are at the SOC. TxDOT Amarillo and Lubbock Districts began manning their respective TDEM DDEOCs on February 17. TxDOT crews are patrolling and monitoring road conditions statewide.

TxDOT Amarillo District received a request and has provided fuel for TAMFS at the Lavender fire. TxDOT crews in the Panhandle has provided traffic control for several wildfires this week. Up to date road conditions are available on drivetexas.org.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

DSHS provided an Emergency Medical Taskforce (EMTF) State Coordination Officer (SCO), and a DSHS Liaison Officer (LNO) for this event. The DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is at limited activation and supporting the response.

Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):

EMTF has four Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Packages activated and prepositioned in Alice, Amarillo, Hutchinson, Lubbock, and Merkel for increased Fire Weather conditions across the State. All WLFS Packages have been extended to March 6.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):

HHSC began staffing the SOC in support of severe weather on February 17 and will remain for the duration of the incident.

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR):

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) is monitoring the situation using cybersecurity tooling and threat intelligence feeds. No cyber threats related to this weather event have been identified.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA):

As of February 18, 2026, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has declared an agriculture emergency for the panhandle and West Texas. TDA has one person manning the SOC. [The State of Texas Agriculture Relief \(STAR\) Fund](#) has been activated to support farmers and ranchers affected by wildfires. [Ranchers needing hay or feed can use TDA’s Hay Hotline at \(877\) 429-1998. Mental health support is available 24/7 through the AgriStress Helpline by trained professionals familiar with rural challenges at \(833\) 897-2474.](#)

American Red Cross (ARC):

[The American Red Cross has closed all shelters.](#) The ARC served [465](#) meals to first responders in Donley and Potter counties.

Salvation Army:

The Amarillo Rapid Response Unit (RRU) has fed evacuees and first responders in Donley County. In total, 89 meals and 120 bottled waters were provided.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
ESF-6 Mass Care	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
ISTF HQ Staff	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
VOAD	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
ESF-18 Education	Liaison	1	0	Activated	SOC
TAMFS	Overhead	76	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Motor Graders/ Dozers	160	61	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Engines	0	3	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	USFS	41	5	Assigned	Various

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TAMFS	Aircraft	29	39	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST)	361	90	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	All Hazard STs	76	24	Assigned	Various
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	2	1	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	AgriLife Administration	2	2	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	Marketing and Communications	1	0	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	3	3	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	27	12	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	1	1	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	22	0	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	Animal Evac Response Team	5	5	Assigned	Amarillo
PWRT	ESF 3 SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
DIR	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
DPS	THP Supervisor	1	1	Assigned	Amarillo DDEOC
DPS	THP Supervisor	1	1	Assigned	Lubbock DDEOC
DPS	SOC Support	1	2	Assigned	SOC
DPS	THP Troopers	42	71	Available	Amarillo
DPS	THP Troopers	10	10	Available	Lubbock
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SCO	1	1	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SCO	1	0	Assigned	TFS EOC
DSHS	MIST	1	0	Assigned	TFC EOC
DSHS	WLF PKG	12	4	Assigned	Lubbock County
DSHS	WLF PKG	12	4	Assigned	Jim Wells County
DSHS	WLF PKG	12	4	Assigned	Taylor County
DSHS	SWX PKG	29	14	Assigned	Lubbock County
DSHS	SWX PKG	29	14	Assigned	Hutchinson County

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
DSHS	SWX PKG	29	15	Assigned	Scurry County
DSHS	SMOC	5	0	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	Panhandle RMOC	4	0	Assigned	Lubbock
DSHS	REM	4	2	Assigned	Kerrville
DSHS	WLF PKG	36	24	Assigned	Randall and Lubbock
DSHS	Area MEDL	1	1	Assigned	Randall
DSHS	Tech Specialist	1	0	Assigned	Randall
DSHS	SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Randall
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TEA	SOC LNO	1	0	Activated	SOC
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	6	1	Assigned	Oldham County (Lavender Fire)
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	6	1	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Heavy MRP	9	1	Assigned	Oldham County (Lavender Fire)
TMD	SOC Support Team	9	0	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	TPWD Aviation	2	3	Available	Austin
TPWD	TPWD Game Wardens	20	20	Available	TDEM Region 1
TPWD	DDEOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	DDEOC Amarillo and Lubbock
TPWD	TPWD UAS	2	4	Assigned	TDEM Region 1
TxDOT	EMC	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	2	1	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District support of DDEOCs	49	25	Assigned	Amarillo, Childress, Lubbock

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions). The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) continues to monitor the situation and will provide additional situation 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-3>

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