



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

### New Information is in Blue Text

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Event Name</b>         | <b>26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026</b>                     |
| <b>Date</b>               | February 27, 2026                                       |
| <b>Time</b>               | 10:00 AM  |
| <b>Operational Period</b> | 8:00 AM February 26, 2026, to 8:00 AM February 27, 2026 |
| <b>Report Number</b>      | 10  |

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>TDEM Regions Affected</b> | 1, 2, 3 & 8  |
| <b>DDs Active</b>            | 5, 6, 14, 15 |

**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, Huxdohinson, 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) at 1700 on February 25.

**Potter County:** The Blowout Fire (Potter 1952) burned 146 acres and is 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. DDEOC 2 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 23. DDEOC 2 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) at 1900 on February 25.

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) at 1900 on February 25.

### **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).

### **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): DDEOC 5 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 24.

DD 6 – Tyler (Includes Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties): DDEOC

6 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 24.

**Marion County:** The River Boat (Marion 1847) Fire burned [338 acres and is contained](#).

DD 14 – Lufkin (Includes Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties): DDEOC 14 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 24.

DD 15 – Beaumont (Includes Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties): DDEOC 15 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 24.

### **Region 5 (Includes DDs 19, 20, and 21)**

DD 20 – Corpus Christi (Includes Aransas, Bee, Brooks, Duval, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties)

**Refugio County:** Refugio Lake Fire burned 12 acres [and is contained](#).

DD 21 – Weslaco (Includes Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties)

**Hidalgo County:** The Hidalgo 1675 Fire burned 61 acres [and is contained](#).

DD 11 – Waco (Includes Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, McLennan): DDEOC 11 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) on February 25.

DD 12 – Austin (Includes Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties): DDEOC 12 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) on February 25.

**Hays County:** The Old Highway Fire burned 19 acres [and is contained](#).

## **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.

On February 22, AgriLife conducted fencing damage assessments and monitoring needs with local landowners in affected counties. On February 23, the DAR Animal Evacuation and Response Team demobilized and returned to headquarters.

**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 [934](#) personnel committed to the event. Out-of-State personnel and equipment have integrated with TAMFS in aviation support, field operations, and other support roles.

**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 Lubbock are providing staffing to their respective DDEOCs. The Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Chief's Office is providing staffing support at the SOC. THP Troopers in the Panhandle 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 [27](#) 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 are supporting DDEOCs 1 and 2.

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 26, there were no state-maintained road closures or impacts due to wildfires or weather. TxDOT Lufkin District is working to fulfill two requests from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for portable/changeable message signs (PCMS) and Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) messaging requests in support of wildfire activities near US-69 in Angelina County. TxDOT continues to coordinate with TAMFS for DMS wildfire messaging alerts.

TxDOT Emergency Management staff are at the State Operations Center. TxDOT crews are patrolling and monitoring road conditions statewide. Up to date road conditions are available on [drivetexas.org](https://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 Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Packages and All Hazard Packages activated and prepositioned for increased Fire Weather conditions across the State. All WLFS Packages have been extended to March 6.

On February 25, Wildland Fire Support Unit (WLFS) package moved from Burnet to Gillespie County, and Severe Weather (SWX) packages moved from Randall to Lubbock County and from Hill to Nacogdoches County.

**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):**

On February 18, 2026, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller 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<br>Mass Care  | Liaison                         | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | SOC             |
| ISTF HQ<br>Staff    | Liaison                         | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | SOC             |
| VOAD                | Liaison                         | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin          |
| ESF-18<br>Education | Liaison                         | 1         | 0     | Activated | SOC             |
| TAMFS               | Overhead                        | 29        | 0     | Assigned  | Various         |
| TAMFS               | Operations                      | 41        | 0     | Assigned  | Various         |
| TAMFS               | Incident Support                | 18        | 0     | Assigned  | Various         |
| TAMFS               | Out of State Support            | 343       | 78    | Assigned  | Various         |
| TAMFS               | Field Operations                | 188       | 94    | Assigned  | Various         |
| TAMFS               | Aviation                        | 39        | 43    | Assigned  | Various         |
| TIFMAS              | TIFMAS Strike<br>Teams (ST)     | 200       | 54    | Assigned  | Various         |
| TIFMAS              | All Hazard STs                  | 76        | 20    | Assigned  | Various         |
| AgriLife            | SOC Liaison                     | 1         | 1     | Assigned  | Austin          |
| AgriLife            | Administration                  | 2         | 2     | Activated | College Station |
| AgriLife            | DAR Specialists/<br>Area Chiefs | 3         | 3     | Assigned  | Statewide       |
| ARC                 | ARC Staff                       | 2         | 0     | Assigned  | SOC             |
| PWRT                | ESF 3 SOC LNO                   | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin          |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equip | Status    | Location           |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|--------------------|
| 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         | 1     | Assigned  | TFS EOC            |
| DSHS   | MIST                   | 1         | 1     | Assigned  | TFS EOC            |
| DSHS   | Area MEDL              | 2         | 0     | Assigned  | Amarillo           |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Lubbock County     |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Taylor County      |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Jim Wells County   |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Crockett County    |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Wheeler County     |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Randall County     |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Wichita County     |
| DSHS   | WLFS PKG               | 6         | 4     | Assigned  | Gillespie County   |
| DSHS   | SWX PKG                | 22        | 11    | Assigned  | Lubbock County     |
| DSHS   | SWX PKG                | 22        | 11    | Assigned  | Kerr County        |
| DSHS   | SWX PKG                | 21        | 10    | Assigned  | Nacogdoches County |
| DSHS   | SWX PKG                | 21        | 10    | Assigned  | Nolan County       |
| DSHS   | SMOC                   | 5         | 0     | Assigned  | Travis County      |
| DSHS   | REM                    | 4         | 2     | Assigned  | Kerr County        |
| 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 | 4         | 1     | Assigned  | San Antonio        |
| TMD    | Rotary Wing Medium MRP | 4         | 1     | Assigned  | Austin             |
| TMD    | Rotary Wing Heavy MRP  | 11        | 1     | Assigned  | Grand Prairie      |
| TMD    | SOC Support Team       | 8         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin             |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type           | Personnel | Equip | Status    | Location                   |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| TPWD   | SOC Liaison                      | 1         | 1     | Available | 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                      | 1         | 1     | Assigned  | Austin                     |
| TxDOT  | Local District support of DDEOCs | 2         | 2     | Released  | Amarillo, 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>

**W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM**

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management  
 Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services  
 Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Twitter: [@TDEM](#)

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)