



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	March 5, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM March 4, 2026, to 8:00 AM March 5, 2026
Report Number	16

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 5, 8
DDs Active	None

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 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) on March 3.

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 March 3.

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

DD 15 – Beaumont (Includes Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties):

Hardin County: Hardin 2238 Fire burned 117 acres and is contained.

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):

Aransas County: Cat Tail (Aransas 2234) Fire burned six acres and is contained.

Region 6 (Includes DDs 17, 18, and 24)

DD 18 – New Braunfels (Includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson Counties):

Bexar County: Bexar County, with the assistance of other local jurisdictions, responded to the Wisdom Road Fire; the fire burned two 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.

AgriLife North Region Area Chief and Potter County Extension Agents are monitoring needs with local landowners in affected counties and are working with the DAR Recovery Coordinator to determine if there is a need to procure fencing donations.

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. Out-of-State personnel and equipment are integrated with TAMFS in aviation support, field operations, and other support roles to augment State resources. 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 [725](#) personnel committed to the event including [three](#) TIFMAS Strike Teams and [11](#) Out-of-State Strike Teams.

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. 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 has released all aircraft.](#) Mission totals: 178 buckets, 140,418 gallons, and 53.5 hours flown.

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.

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 March 4, there were no roadways closed or impacted due to weather or wildfires. TxDOT has an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and a State Operations Center (SOC) Liaison Officer (LNO) supporting in Austin. TxDOT continues to coordinate with Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) for Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) wildfire messaging, if needed.

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 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.

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 Mass Care	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
ISTF HQ Staff	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
VOAD	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
ESF-18 Education	Liaison	1	0	Activated	SOC (Remote)
TAMFS	Overhead	28	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Operations	40	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Incident Support	17	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Out of State Support	349	84	Assigned	Out of State
TAMFS	Field Operations	183	88	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Aviation	37	40	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST)	71	19	Assigned	Various
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
AgriLife	DAR Recovery Coordinator	1	1	Assigned	Victoria
AgriLife	Administration	2	2	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	3	3	Assigned	Statewide
ARC	ARC Staff	2	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
PWRT	ESF 3 SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
DIR	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
DPS	SOC Support	1	2	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
DPS	THP Troopers	42	71	Available	Amarillo
DPS	THP Troopers	10	10	Available	Lubbock
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
DSHS	SCO	1	1	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
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	Jim Wells County
DSHS	WLFS PKG	6	4	Assigned	Randall County
DSHS	WLFS PKG	6	4	Assigned	Taylor County
DSHS	WLFS PKG	6	4	Assigned	Burnet County
DSHS	WLFS PKG	6	4	Assigned	Crockett 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	SOC (Remote)
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TEA	SOC LNO	1	0	Activated	SOC (Remote)
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	7	1	Released	San Antonio
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	4	1	Released	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Heavy MRP	13	1	Released	Grand Prairie
TMD	SOC Support Team	9	0	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Available	SOC (Remote)
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

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
					and Lubbock
TPWD	TPWD UAS	2	4	Assigned	TDEM Region 1
TxDOT	EMC	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level III (Increased Readiness 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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<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

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