



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Event Name | 26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026 |
| Date | March 16, 2026 |
| Time | 10:00 AM |
| Operational Period | 8:00 AM March 15, 2026, to 8:00 AM March 16, 2026 |
| Report Number | 27 |

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| TDEM Regions Affected | 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 |
| DDs Active | 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 12, 23 |

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On March 9, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation related to fire weather conditions that began on August 10, 2025, as amended and renewed in subsequent proclamations, certifying that increased fire weather conditions pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property.

On February 19, Gov. 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): Region 1 EOC activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 11.

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 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 8.

Donley County: Corner Pocket Fire has burned 234 acres and is 70% contained. Evacuations are underway.

Oldham County: Neon Beige Fire has burned 1,500 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 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 14.

Floyd County: Lakeview Fire burned 26 acres and is 100% contained.

Garza County: Badlands Fire burned 176 acres and is 100% contained.

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 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 14.

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 March 15.

Wichita County: Radar Fire burned 482 acres and is 100% contained.

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)

Johnson County: Winnie Fire has burned 5.5 acres and is 95% contained.

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)

Bowie County: Bowie 2512 Fire has burned 0.75 acres and is 95% contained.

Lamar County: Lamar 2492 Fire burned 4.5 acres - 100% contained. Lamar 2498 Fire burned 31 acres and is 100% contained.

Red River County: Red River 2502: 9 acres - 100% contained.

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

Anderson County: Anderson 2531 Fire burned 2 acres and is 100% contained.

Van Zandt County: Van Zandt 2510 Fire burned 25 acres and is 100% contained.

DD 14 – Lufkin (Includes Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties)

Tyler County: Tyler 2525 Fire has burned 10 acres and is 10% contained.

Tyler County: Tyler 2529 Fire has burned 1 acre – 10% contained.

Region 5 (Includes DDs 19, 20, 21)

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

Cameron County: Fish Hatchery Fire (Cameron 2461) has burned 10 acres and is 50% contained.

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

DD 24 – Del Rio (Includes Dimmit, Edwards, La Salle, Kinney, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties)

Real County: Banjo Fire has burned 3 acres and is 10% contained.

Region 7 (Includes DDs 8, 9, and 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)

Howard County: Guitar Fire burned 22 acres and is 100% contained.

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

DD 11 – Waco (Includes Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties): DDEOC 11 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 14.

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 March 15.

Fayette County: Fayette 2533 Fire has burned 40 acres and is 35% contained.

DD 13 – Bryan (Includes Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties)

Leon County: Leon 2526 Fire burned 2 acres and is 100% contained. The Row 327 Fire has burned 5 acres and is 0% contained.

DD 23 – Killeen (Includes Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba Counties): DDEOC 23 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 14.

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.

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 1,115 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):

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 **571** personnel committed to this event including **eight** TIFMAS Strike Teams and six Out-of-State Strike Teams.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

The Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Chief's Office is providing staffing support at the SOC. THP Troopers returned to their regular duty hours.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD has activated one Rotary Wing Medium (RWM) Mission Ready Package (MRP) consisting of two UH-60s, to provide direct aerial fire support to TAMFS. TMD has activated **17 personnel** for this event.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

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. Two additional Wildland Fire Medical Support Units (WLFS) and one Wildland Paramedic Unit (WPU) have been deployed to Lubbock and Childress Counties. All-Hazards (AH) team Charlie has moved to Hillsboro, Hill County as of March 14. AH Alpha and AH Bravo have been extended to March 19.

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. [98 personnel and 56 assets are assigned](#). All WLFS Packages have been extended to March 6. On March 8, the WLFS PKG in Ft. Stockton moved to Lubbock, replacing a demobilizing WLFS PKG.

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):

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.

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 | 27 | 0 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Operations | 28 | 0 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Incident Support | 17 | 0 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Out of State Support | 175 | 41 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Field Operations | 105 | 51 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Aviation | 32 | 31 | Assigned | Various |
| TIFMAS | TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST) | 187 | 54 | 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 |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equip | Status | Location |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| ARC | ARC Staff | 2 | 0 | Released | SOC (Remote) |
| PWRT | ESF 3 SOC LNO | 1 | 0 | Assigned | SOC (Remote) |
| DIR | SOC Liaison | 1 | 0 | Assigned | SOC (Remote) |
| 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 | Travis County |
| DSHS | SCO | 1 | 1 | Assigned | Brazos County |
| DSHS | MIST | 1 | 1 | Assigned | Brazos County |
| DSHS | SCO | 1 | 1 | Assigned | Travis County |
| DSHS | MIST | 1 | 0 | Released | Travis County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Garza County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Randall County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Childress County |
| DSHS | WPU | 2 | 1 | Assigned | Lubbock County |
| DSHS | Ambulance | 2 | 1 | Assigned | Lubbock County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Moore County |
| DSHS | AH PKG – Alpha | 22 | 11 | Assigned | Midland County |
| DSHS | AH PKG – Bravo | 22 | 11 | Assigned | Hale County |
| DSHS | AH PKG – Charlie | 8 | 5 | Activated | Wilbarger County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG | 4 | 1 | Activated | Jim Wells 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 | SOC Support Team | 7 | 0 | Assigned | Austin |
| TMD | UH-60 SHINR-03 | 5 | 1 | Assigned | Amarillo |
| TMD | UH-60 ALAMO-02 | 5 | 1 | Assigned | San Antonio |
| 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 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>

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)