



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	March 17, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM March 16, 2026, to 8:00 AM March 17, 2026
Report Number	28

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 5, 8
DDs Active	1, 2, 3, 7, 11

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 burned 234 acres and is [100% contained](#).

Oldham County: Neon Beige Fire has burned [1,688 acres and is 100% 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.

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.

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 burned 5.5 acres and is [100% 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 [100% contained](#).

Cass County: Cass 2542 Fire burned 1.5 acres and is [100% contained](#).

Titus County: Titus 2536 burned 8 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 burned [14 acres](#) and is [100% contained](#).

Tyler County: Tyler 2529 Fire burned [49 acre](#) – [100% contained](#).

Region 4 (Includes DDs 16)

DD 16 – Houston (Includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, and Wharton Counties)

Harris County: Harris 2562 Fire burned 7.5 acres and is [100% contained](#).

Liberty County: Liberty 2545 Fire burned 3.69 acres and is [100% contained](#).

Walker County: Walker 2554 Fire burned 1 acre and is [100% contained](#).

Region 5 (Includes DDs 19, 20, 21)

DD 19 – Laredo (Includes Jim Hogg, Star, Webb, and Zapata Counties)

Jim Hogg County: Twins Fire has burned [112 acres](#) and is [100% contained](#).

Starr County: San Francisco Banco Fire has burned [eight acres](#) and is [80% contained](#)

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 17 – Victoria (Includes Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson, and Victoria Counties)

Victoria County: Patton Fire has burned 70 acres and is 100% contained.

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

Real County: Banjo Fire burned 3 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.

Freestone County: Stuart Mills (Freestone 2564) Fire burned 200 acres and is 100% contained.

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. DDEOC 12 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) on March 16.

Fayette County: Whirling Pines Fire has burned 25 acres and is 55% contained.

DD 13 – Bryan (Includes Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties): DDEOC 13 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 16. DDEOC 13 returned to Level IV-Normal Conditions on March 17.

Leon County: Leon 2526 Fire burned 2 acres and is 100% contained. The Row 327 Fire has burned 4 acres and is 100% 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. DDEOC 23 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) on March 16.

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 605 personnel committed to this event including eight Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (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 21 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 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	31	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Incident Support	20	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Out of State Support	170	40	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Field Operations	121	60	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Aviation	33	31	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST)	203	59	Assigned	Various
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	SOC (Remote)

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
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	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 #3	6	4	Assigned	Oldham County
DSHS	WLFS PKG #7	6	4	Assigned	Lubbock County
DSHS	WLFS PKG #9	6	4	Assigned	Oldham County
DSHS	WLFS PKG #10	6	4	Assigned	Childress County
DSHS	WLFS PKG #11	4	1	Activated	Jim Wells County
DSHS	WLFS PKG #12	4	1	Activated	Real County
DSHS	REM	4	1	Activated	Real County
DSHS	WPU	2	1	Assigned	Lubbock County
DSHS	Ambulance	2	1	Assigned	Lubbock 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
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	9	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

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
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>

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

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