



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

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|---------------------------|---|
| Event Name | 26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026 |
| Date | March 21, 2026 |
| Time | 10:00 AM |
| Operational Period | 8:00 AM March 20, 2026, to 8:00 AM March 21, 2026 |
| Report Number | 32 |

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| TDEM Regions Affected | 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 |
| DDs Active | 2 |

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On March 18, 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 Corner Pocket Fire in Donley County, which threatened and damaged homes and infrastructure in the Texas Panhandle and forced local evacuations.

On March 9, Gov. 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.

On March 18, 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 Corner Pocket Fire in Donley County.

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 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties) [DDEOC 2 - Lubbock will activate to Level III \(Increased Readiness Conditions\) on March 21.](#)

Armstrong County: [Bright Lights Fire has burned 251 acres and is 95% contained.](#)

Hockley County: [Oklahoma Flat Fire has burned 197 acres is 95% contained.](#)

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

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

Shelby County: [Flat Fork Creek Fire has burned 156 acres and is contained.](#)

Region 4 (Includes DD 16)

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

Chambers County: Chambers 2841 Fire has burned 10.5 acres and is contained.

Region 5 (Includes DDs 19, 20, 21)

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

Starr County: San Francisco Banco Fire has burned eight acres and is contained

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

Kenedy County: Armstrong Oaks Fire has burned 2,245 acres and is 85% contained.

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

Cameron County: Fish Hatchery Fire (Cameron 2461) has burned 10 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.

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.

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 Disaster Assessment and Recovery (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 572 personnel committed to this event including [eight](#) Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Strike Teams and six Out-of-State Strike Teams.

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 10 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 in evacuation.

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 WLFS resources have been extended through 04/02/2026.

Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):

EMTF has Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Packages (PKG) 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 conditions 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.

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) |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equip | Status | Location |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|------------------|
| 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 | 30 | 0 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Operations | 31 | 0 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Incident Support | 18 | 0 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Out of State Support | 175 | 40 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Field Operations | 135 | 64 | Assigned | Various |
| TAMFS | Aviation | 37 | 32 | Assigned | Various |
| TIFMAS | TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST) | 146 | 42 | 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 |
| PWRT | ESF 3 SOC LNO | 1 | 0 | Released | SOC (Remote) |
| DIR | SOC Liaison | 1 | 0 | Released | SOC (Remote) |
| 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 | 0 | Released | Bexar County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG #3 | 10 | 6 | Assigned | Potter County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG #7 | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Lubbock County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG #9 | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Amarillo |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG #10 | 6 | 4 | Assigned | Childress County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG #11 | 6 | 4 | Activated | Jim Wells County |
| DSHS | WLFS PKG #12 | 6 | 4 | Activated | Gillespie County |
| DSHS | Area MEDL | 2 | 0 | Activated | Gillespie County |
| DSHS | AH PKG – Alpha | 21 | 11 | Released | Midland County |
| DSHS | AH PKG – Bravo | 21 | 10 | Released | Potter County |
| DSHS | AH PKG – Charlie | 23 | 12 | Activated | Lubbock County |
| HHSC | SOC Liaison | 1 | 0 | Assigned | SOC (Remote) |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equip | Status | Location |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|----------------------------|
| TDA | SOC Liaison | 1 | 0 | Assigned | SOC (Remote) |
| TEA | SOC LNO | 1 | 0 | Activated | SOC (Remote) |
| TMD | UH-60 SHINR-03 | 4 | 1 | Assigned | Amarillo |
| TMD | UH-60 ALAMO-02 | 5 | 1 | Assigned | San Antonio |
| TMD | SOC Support MRP | 1 | 0 | Assigned | SOC |
| 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](https://twitter.com/TDEM)
(512) 424-2208 (24/7)