



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	May 26, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM May 25, 2026, to 8:00 AM May 26, 2026
Report Number	98

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8
DDs Active	None

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On May 21, Governor Greg Abbott announced that he directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to request officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) join state and local partners in conducting preliminary damage assessments in Panhandle communities affected by recent wildfire activity and South Texas communities impacted by April severe storms. These assessments will help determine if the state meets the thresholds for additional federal disaster assistance.

On May 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 Stinky Fire in Potter County, which has threatened homes, damaged property, impacted infrastructure, and prompted local evacuations in the Texas Panhandle.

On May 16, Gov. Abbott announced that FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an FMAG for the Hunggate Fire in Randall County, which has threatened and damaged homes and infrastructure in the Texas Panhandle and forced local evacuations.

On May 8, 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 March 18, Gov. Abbott announced that FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an 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 February 19, Gov. Abbott announced that FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an 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 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:

- Protect life and property.
- Support rapid & effective response.
- Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
- 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 activated to Level II (Escalated Response) on May 15. DDEOC 1 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) on May 24.

Deaf Smith County: The Hunting Lodge Fire has burned 73 acres and is 98% 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 May 24.

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.

Mass Care:

Mass Care continues to monitor potential activities and provide sporadic feeding support.

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 May 19, the North Area Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Chief met with County Extension Agents (CEA) and officials in Potter County to assess agricultural needs. They are finding injured/burned livestock, with minimal losses reported. AgriLife is working with the local water supplier to provide water trucks for supplemental water for livestock until electricity is restored.

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. 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 139 personnel committed to this event.

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 12 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 May 20, there were no state-maintained road closures due to wildfires. Two flooding-related closures persist (SH-359 in San Patricio Co. and FM-3404 in Llano Co.). Amarillo crews provided overnight traffic control and temporary closures. TxDOT is also supplying dynamic message signs (DMS), barricades, and fuel support in the Panhandle. Damage assessments are underway for fire-affected signs and infrastructure. TxDOT is staffing the SOC and coordinating with TAMFS for ongoing DMS wildfire messaging. Up to date road conditions are available on drivetexas.org.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

On May 16, The State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) moved from Increased Readiness Level to Limited Activation Level. On May 22, the SCO, MIST, Area MEDL with Tech, and specialists have all returned to this incident after previously being assigned to the Stinky Fire.

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.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC):

As of May 19, ARC teams remain deployed across the Panhandle, coordinating with local partners to support fire evacuees. While the Bushland shelter is closing after serving no overnight residents, the partner-managed Quail Creek site continues operations, having peaked at around 50 evacuees with ARC-supplied bedding; seven overnight.

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.

Southern Baptist of Texas Convention (SBTC):

SBTC Disaster Relief is responding to the May Wildfires in the Amarillo area. The first recovery team will arrive on May 26. As of May 26, SBTC has completed 10 home assessments, 40 spiritual/emotional care contacts, and has provided 210 volunteer hours.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
ESF-6 Mass Care	Liaison	4	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
ISTF HQ Staff	Liaison	4	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
VOAD	Liaison	2	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
ESF-18 Education	Liaison	1	0	Activated	SOC (Remote)
TAMFS	Overhead	22	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Operations	10	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Incident Support	11	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Out of State Support	4	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Field Operations	39	18	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Aviation	20	16	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	Strike Team	33	10	Assigned	Various

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TIFMAS	All Hazards Strike Team	20	6	Released	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
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	UH-60 SHINR-03	4	1	Assigned	Amarillo
TMD	UH-60 ALAMO-02	7	1	Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	SOC Support MRP	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Available	SOC (Remote)
TPWD	Aviation	2	3	Available	Austin
TPWD	Game Wardens	20	20	Available	TDEM Region 1
TPWD	DDEOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	DDEOC Amarillo and Lubbock
TPWD	UAS	2	4	Assigned	TDEM Region 1
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District Support	20	12	Assigned	Amarillo District
DSHS	SCO	2	2	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
DSHS	MIST	1	1	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
DSHS	Area MEDL	2	1	Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	All Hazards Team Bravo	23	12	Released	Lubbock County
DSHS	WLFS Package #13	10	6	Assigned	Pecos County
DSHS	WLFS Package #16	6	4	Available	Childress County
DSHS	WLFS Package #17	6	4	Available	Potter County
DSHS	WLFS Package #18	6	4	Released	Lubbock County
DSHS	REM #13	4	3	Assigned	Pecos County
ARC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin

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](https://twitter.com/TDEM)

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)