



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

Event Name	26-0016 New World Screwworm Response
Date	July 21, 2026
Time	4:00 PM
Reporting Period	2:00 PM July 20, 2026, to 2:00 PM July 21, 2026
Report Number	45

TDEM Regions Affected	5, 6, 7
Disaster Districts Activated	18, 24

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: The Texas Disaster Portal continues to be updated regularly with the latest guidance, resources, and information from state agencies engaged in the response to New World Screwworm. The one-stop-shop portal, located on the Texas Division of Emergency Management website, can be accessed online at screwworm.texas.gov.

The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) continues to strengthen NWS response through animal inspections, movement certification, compliance enforcement, surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, producer support, and public outreach. Despite weather-related challenges, coordinated field operations, livestock market monitoring, roadside checkpoints, rapid diagnostics, and ongoing education efforts remain focused on limiting disease spread and ensuring regulatory compliance.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) continues to support NWS response efforts by coordinating wildlife surveillance, assisting partner agencies, and conducting outreach to landowners and stakeholders. Ongoing activities include wildlife inspections across multiple settings, investigation of suspect cases, promotion of disease surveillance, and collaboration with cooperators to detect, control, and prevent the spread of parasitic disease.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service continues supporting NWS preparedness through coordinated monitoring, public education, professional training, outreach, and

resource development. Ongoing efforts include collaboration with state partners, educational programming, diagnostic support, online training, and communication tools that strengthen awareness, early detection, reporting, and response capabilities across Texas.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) remains prepared to support the NWS response through ongoing coordination with state and regional partners, public health readiness, and human health preparedness. Current efforts focus on veterinary guidance, community outreach, and planning educational activities to strengthen surveillance, awareness, and response capabilities across affected and at-risk regions.

On June 19, Governor Greg Abbott announced the launch of an enhanced website that offers comprehensive information for Texans related to the New World Screwworm (NWS). Located in TDEM's Disaster Portal, Texans can visit screwworm.texas.gov to access a "one-stop shop" of information and resources from state agency partners engaged in NWS response.

State agencies are working closely with local, state, and federal partners in the field and at the State Emergency Operations Center. State partners have contacted thousands of landowners and stakeholders and remain engaged and prepared to support response operations as efforts continue to prevent further spread of NWS.

On June 8, Governor Abbott directed TDEM to activate the Texas State Emergency Operations Center to Level II (Escalated Response) to support the state's New World Screwworm response operations.

Resources from multiple state agency partners and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) are being leveraged in response to this parasite detection.

On June 5, following confirmation of NWS detection in Texas, Gov. Abbott received a briefing and provided an update to Texans on the state's response at the Texas State Emergency Operations Center. The Governor also issued an updated state disaster declaration to address NWS and prioritize operations in Uvalde and Zavala counties.

On January 26, Gov. Abbott issued a statewide disaster declaration certifying that the spread of NWS threatened Texas's livestock industry and economy and posed an imminent threat of widespread and severe property damage for all Texas counties. The declaration also authorized the use of all available resources of the state government to cope with this disaster and allowed for the allocation of state resources to address the spread of the parasite to the Texas NWS response team.

On June 25, 2025, Gov. Abbott directed the Texas Animal Health Commission and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish a joint Texas New World Screwworm Response Team to lead the state's prevention and response efforts.

For more than 18 months since being informed of a positive case of NWS in Mexico, the USDA has been working to combat the impacts in coordination with state and local partners. Such measures by the USDA include importing and dispersing sterile flies in South Texas, outreach with local producers, and building a facility to assist with sterile fly operations.

The Texas Emergency Management Council continues to monitor developments.

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 6 (Includes DDs 17, 18, and 24)

Region 6 has contacted every County Judge in the region regarding the outbreak, status, and anticipated future briefings. Region 6 is coordinating and communicating with local officials and state and federal partners. Currently, personnel are assisting with the needs of the unified command post located in Eagle Pass.

DD 18 – New Braunfels (Includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson Counties): Disaster District Emergency Operations Center (DDEOC) 18 is activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions).

DD 24 – Del Rio (Includes Dimmit, Edwards, La Salle, Kinney, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties): DDEOC 24 is activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions).

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM):

On June 8, the State Operations Center (SOC) activated to Level II (Escalated Response) in support of the New World Screwworm incident. The SOC continues directing interagency coordination to maintain unified communication, deploy necessary resources, and support response operations in affected regions across Texas.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):

NWS Statistics

as of [7/21/26](#) at 2:00 pm:

Total Confirmed Cases in Texas: 40

Counties affected	Total positive cases	Species affected
Crockett	5	goats, sheep, cattle
Uvalde	1	cattle
Brewster	2	cattle
Sutton	1	canine
Pecos	2	sheep
Starr	1	cattle
Counties affected	Total inactive cases	Species affected
Zavala	3	cattle
Sutton	1	sheep
La Salle	2	cattle
Gillespie	1	goats
Pecos	1	canine
Crockett	6	sheep
Edwards	6	cattle, goats
Tom Green	1	cattle
Terrell	4	cattle, goats
Medina	1	cattle
Jim Hogg	1	cattle
Schleicher	1	sheep

NWS Certified Inspector Program Statistics

As of 7/21/26 at 2:00 PM

Application in Process	2
Certified Inspectors	744

**TAHC expanded eligible applicants to include emergency management personnel. As the program rolls out, TAHC is evaluating expansion of the program to additional groups*

Mission Information and Details

- To date, TAHC has inspected 18,872 animals in the infested zones, and 689 certificates have been issued for movement out of the infested zones.

- TAHC inspectors have been mobilized to conduct animal inspection/movement/outreach within the identified infested and adjacent zones. These groups will conduct inspections of livestock to identify myiasis, assist producers with topical/systemic treatments, and collect larval samples for official laboratory identification. Additionally, they will perform pre-movement inspections, ensure proper treatment compliance, and issue official NWS movement certificates as quickly as possible.
 - On [July 20](#), a total of [17](#) inspections were completed on [399](#) animals moving out of the infested zones. The number of inspections is being impacted by inclement weather.
- TAHC compliance and checkpoint strike teams are operating roadside checkpoints. Roadside checkpoints have been established within the infested and adjacent zones to ensure NWS guideline compliance.
 - On [July 20](#), with the assistance of TAMFS, a total of [23](#) stops were completed; [13](#) stops were provided for education/outreach, and [10](#) verified NWS guideline compliance.
- Livestock Market inspections are being conducted to screen livestock for signs of myiasis and verify that all animals entering a market from an Infested Zone possess a valid NWS movement certificate. Animals moving to slaughter are monitored to ensure they enter proper slaughter channels, and any changes to a non-slaughter status are confirmed to receive immediate treatment at the market.
- TAHC Regional Staff are working with local producers in the region to answer questions and assist with the coordination of local jurisdictions and assets.
- NWS Identification Specialists, located at the NVSL Mobile Lab and USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Lab, are screening suspect larval and fly submissions from the infested and adjacent zones for rapid identification. One (1) TAHC entomologist has been assigned to the mobile laboratory to assist.
- Providing information, outreach, and education to industry, animal owners, stakeholders, and the public about NWS to encourage surveillance and proper reporting.
- The [TAHC New World screwworms webpage](#) is updated regularly to provide information and resources, as it becomes available.

The situation is evolving, and new information will be provided as investigations continue.

Executive Director Orders identifying Infested Zones remain in effect, pursuant to Texas Agriculture Code, Chapters 161 – 168, and applicable regulations found in Title 4 of the Texas Administrative Code, Part 2, Chapters 31-60. This order remains in effect until the quarantine is released by the Commission.

As of July 20

- On July 18, 2026, NWS was detected in a bovine in Starr County. Due to the detection of NWS in Starr County, areas of Starr and Zapata Counties are designated as Infested Zone 16.
- On July 19, 2026, NWS was detected in a sheep in Schleicher County. Due to the detection of NWS in Schleicher County, areas of Schleicher and Sutton Counties are designated as Infested Zone 17.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

To protect the State's natural resources, including fish and wildlife, through land-based and marine patrol, TPWD will serve as a force multiplier responding to requests for support from our federal, state, and local partners to prevent, detect, control, or eradicate parasitic disease outbreaks. TPWD will deploy coordinated resources to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate parasitic disease within the Texas-Mexico Border region.

TPWD staff will continue to coordinate native wildlife surveillance efforts, which will include:

- Working with landowners to organize active wildlife surveillance on their properties
- Inspection of hunter-harvested carcasses when necessary, including animals harvested in State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas.
- Inspection of recently road-killed wildlife.
- Inspection of animals is handled as part of routine wildlife handling, whether that is by agencies, researchers, or other entities that encounter wildlife on a regular basis.
- Reporting from wildlife rehabbers, private practice vets, law enforcement, taxidermists, game processors, and the public.

July 21

- TPWD staff have investigated 4,718 animals statewide and investigated 49 animals of interest.
- To date, TPWD staff have contacted 6,821 TPWD cooperators and permit holders to notify them of the NWS situation and promote surveillance; 2,781 of those contacts have been to landowners and permit holders within IZs or SZs.
- In addition to cooperators located in a zone, TPWD staff are also contacting all available TPWD cooperators that are currently not in a zone in South Texas, Edwards Plateau, and Trans Pecos counties. As of this report, 4,040 TPWD cooperators on that list have been contacted.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

Currently, the AgriLife Extension SOC liaison, Public Information Officer (PIO), Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Team Members, DAR Administration, Extension Administration, and County Extension Agents are monitoring NWS movement and conditions, SOC response activity, and participating in weekly communication calls with Extension Administration, Entomologists, and Livestock Specialists. Disaster Assessment and Recovery Specialists are on standby to support County Extension Agents and ESF-11 partners with public education, animal response, and recovery efforts as requested. PIO continues to develop educational and outreach materials for publication and continues to participate in daily Joint Information Center activities.

Since June 2025, leading up to the first confirmed NWS case in Texas, AgriLife has:

- Conducted educational programs on NWS reaching over 21,200 participants.
- Established an 18-member working group of Extension Specialists across livestock, wildlife, and human disciplines focused on the development of educational information, outreach techniques, and resources for use by County Extension Agents and other appropriate Extension personnel across Texas.
- Two internal staff NWS webinar trainings completed by 500 AgriLife Extension and AgriLife Research personnel, were conducted with training support from the TAHC and TPWD.
- Hosted a hands-on professional development NWS workshop hosted at the San Antonio Livestock Show Ground for 126 AgriLife Extension and AgriLife Research personnel. In addition to others in attendance at this workshop, County Extension Agents (CEAs) from 48 of the southern and western Texas Counties were in attendance.
- Developed a County Extension NWS Educational Tool kit, complete with videos and PowerPoint Slide Decks for use in local producer and community educational outreach efforts.
- Through a grant from USDA-APHIS, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has distributed 1,000 NWS larva collection kits among the Southern and Western County Extension offices for use in NWS detection and identification.
- AgriLife Extension is wrapping up the development of a course that will train people on what to do and expect related to the occurrence of NWS. AgriLife Extension will provide maintenance and management of this course.
- Provided expertise with local and state government representatives to better inform their preparation should an incident occur.
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension livestock entomology specialist conducted an NWS awareness training during the monthly meeting of the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) Agricultural Committee, as well as more in-depth training during the May 2026 EDEN webinar hosted by the EDEN professional development committee.

- The Ag Alert pest and disease alert system has seen a 600% increase in subscribers since the first detection of NWS on June 3. As of July 13, there were 1,698 subscribers. NWS cases are being posted on the site, along with other animal and plant pest and disease cases.
- As of July 13, 2026, the following online printable resources are now available through the AgriLife Extension New World screwworm hub:
 1. The AgriLife Extension pocket guide is available as a printable resource on the AgriLife website. The pocket guide provides basic information about New World screwworm, available treatment options, and general resources for Texans.
 2. A Field Guide for Beef Cattle Producers provides early detection information, reporting, sample collection, submission, and treatment information. This resource is also available on the AgriLife Extension NWS hub.

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- The New World Screwworm Preparedness and Response Education Course for Livestock Inspection remains available on AgriLife Learn and the Texas Animal Health Commission websites. As of 8:30 am on July 21, [5,583](#) individuals had enrolled, with [2,590](#) completing the modules and earning completion certificates.

Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL):

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) has deployed one laboratory professional to the Texas Animal Health Commission's (TAHC) Pleasanton office to join the United States Department of Agriculture mobile detection unit deployed from USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL). The lab is now operational and accepting samples for identification. A second professional remains stationed in the State Operations Center (SOC) in Austin.

TVMDL is educating clients to contact TAHC for triage of a suspected fly or larvae instead of direct submission to TVMDL. However, TVMDL Client Services staff review every daily submission and flag any cases submitted for fly/larvae ID. Laboratorians who have passed the USDA proficiency test for NWS identification stand ready to review submissions and will immediately contact TAHC and USDA should a suspect case be identified. Suspect samples will be routed as directed by TAHC and USDA.

Staff participate in the TAHC Virtual Joint Information Center daily calls.

Laboratory personnel at all four agency locations are on standby to support ESF-11 partners as needed.

TVMDL veterinarians are assisting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in producing screwworm collection kits.

TVMDL is working to validate high-throughput testing, should the need arise.

July 21

- TVMDL received 0 submissions from private citizens and 6 submissions from USDA traps on July 20, 2026. In total, 6 submissions were received by TVMDL College Station on July 20, 2026.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is at Increased Readiness in support of this incident. DSHS continues working with state partners and lead agencies to ensure ESF-8's ongoing support.

DSHS is prepared to support, as needed, to assist in protecting the Texas livestock industry and wildlife. DSHS is ready to respond to human cases, should that occur.

July 21

Ongoing Coordination

- DSHS Public Health Region – 1 (Panhandle)
 - PHR1 Zoonosis attended Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners (TBVME) webinar to give guidance for veterinary care of NWS-affected animals 07/20/2026.
- DSHS Public Health Region – 6/5S (Houston/Beaumont)
 - Region 6/5S Zoonosis control program performed in-person NWS outreach to animal shelters in Montgomery and Walker counties.
- DSHS Public Health Region – 8 (Bexar / San Antonio / Uvalde area)
 - PHR8 OBPH & Zoonosis staff are planning a Community Health Worker (CHW) training in coordination with the Southwest Border AHEC. The training is tentatively scheduled for August 4th in Eagle Pass.

As of July 19

Food Safety

- DSHS is aware of 4 slaughter and/or processing establishments in current Infested Zones (1 in Tom Green, 1 in Uvalde, 1 in Pecos, and 1 in Medina counties). Two of those, Tom Green and Pecos County establishments, are not currently conducting slaughter activities. DSHS continues to conduct active inspection and monitoring activities in accordance with existing regulations.

DSHS staff across regional offices continue reaching out to partners to ensure animal control officers, veterinarians, local health departments, county judges, tribal nations, and other regional partners have the latest guidance and resources for identification, sampling, and reporting NWS.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA):

The Texas Department of Agriculture continues to conduct surveillance, gather

intelligence, collect evidence, and monitor any signs of the New World Screwworm fly in relevant portions of the state. Traps specific for the New World Screwworm have been deployed and are continually monitored, with all suspect samples sent to our state and federal partners for identification of suspect fly species.

To further support agricultural producers during this emergency, TDA maintains the Hay and Feed Hotline, a service for donating or requesting hay and other livestock feed resources. TDA also offers the AgriStress Helpline, offering confidential, professional mental health support to anyone seeking assistance at any time.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):

TCEQ continues to closely monitor the NWS response and will coordinate with state and federal partners to provide technical assistance and guidance on carcass disposal.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) continues to support the New World Screwworm response by providing logistical assistance, supporting State Operations Center operations, coordinating compliance checkpoint locations with TAHC, and sharing daily response updates and educational information statewide to maintain operational awareness and readiness.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

The Texas Military Department (TMD) is supporting state agency partners in response with a SOC support team. TMD has activated an Aerial Dispersal Team in South Texas to assist partners with sterile fly dispersal.

Texas Cyber Command (TXCC):

TXCC is monitoring the situation and stands ready to support the state's response efforts. TXCC is monitoring the situation using cybersecurity tooling and threat intelligence feeds. No cyber threats related to this event have been identified.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

As DPS continues to support NWS response, the updated checkpoints for La Salle, Edwards, Gillespie, Tom Green, Crockett, Medina, Jim Hogg, and Brewster Counties have been distributed to DPS field personnel. THP personnel continue to patrol the affected areas identified by TAHC in Zavala, La Salle, Edwards, Gillespie, Tom Green, Sutton, Crockett, Terrell, Medina, Jim Hogg, and Brewster Counties. THP is available to respond to requests for assistance if needed.

Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET):

On June 18, VET returned from an assigned status in the field to an available status from home stations and remains available on an as-needed basis.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):

TAMFS is providing agency personnel to assist TAHC as checkpoint investigators in the screwworm-infected zones and PIO support at the State Operations Center and Command Post.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TDEM	ICP Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Eagle Pass
TDEM	SOC Support	13	0	Activated	SOC
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	Administration	3	3	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	SMEs	16	16	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	PIO	1	1	Activated	Austin
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	18	18	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife	DAR Livestock Inspection Teams	12	12	Assigned	San Angelo, Fredericksburg, Mason, Uvalde, Pearsall, Hondo, Ozona, Hebbronville
AgriLife	County Extension Agents	13	13	Assigned	Zavala, LaSalle, Gillespie, Edwards, Tom Green, Sutton, Terrell, Medina, Crockett, Jim Hogg, Pecos, Uvalde, Brewster Counties

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
AgriLife	County Extension Agents	250+	0	Activated	Statewide
DPS	THP Trooper/Corporal	1	1	Assigned	Pleasanton ICP
DSHS	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	PIO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	Veterinarian	1	0	Activated	Atascosa Co
DSHS	Veterinarians/Entomologists	20	0	Assigned	Austin/Public Health Regions
DSHS	Animal Health Inspector	2	0	Activated	Tom Green Co
DSHS	Animal Health Inspector	1	0	Activated	Brewster Co
DSHS	Animal Health Inspector	2	0	Activated	Crockett Co
DSHS	Regional Staff	66	0	Assigned	All Public Health Regions
DSHS	Meat Safety Assurance	118	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAHC	Administration	1	0	Assigned	Remote
TAHC	IMT	8	0	Assigned	Jourdanton
TAHC	Response Staff	37	62	Assigned	Infested Zones
TAHC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAHC	General Council LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAHC	TAHC PIO	1	0	Assigned	JIC
TAMFS	Field Operations	1	1	Assigned	Statewide
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TDA	JIC PIO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Cameron County
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Zapata County

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Harris County
TDA	Inspector	1	1	Assigned	Galveston County
Texas A&M VET	Type 3 VET	15	12	Available	Fredericksburg/ Gillespie County
TMD	SOC Support MRP	12	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Aerial Dispersal Team	10	0	Assigned	Edinburg
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	SOC
TPWD	JIC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	JIC Austin
TPWD	Game Wardens/ State Park Police	500	500	Available	Statewide
TPWD	Game Wardens	3	3	Assigned	TDEM Region 6/ Zavala Co.
TPWD	Wildlife Biologists	17	4	Assigned	TDEM Region 6
TPWD	State Parks Staff	2	0	Assigned	Statewide
TXCC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TVMDL	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TVMDL	TVMDL Administration	3	3	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Sample Review / Processing	7	7	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Parasite ID SMEs	1	1	Activated	Pleasanton/ Jourdanton

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TVMDL	Parasite ID SMEs	6	6	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Veterinary Diagnostics	3	3	Activated	College Station / Canyon
TVMDL	High Throughput Testing	3	3	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Communications	1	1	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Quality Assurance	2	2	Activated	College Station
TVMDL	Field Veterinarian	1	1	Activated	Jourdanton/ICP

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is currently operating 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>

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