



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	September 13, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM September 12, 2026, to 8:00 AM September 13, 2026
Report Number	187

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
DDs Active	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: High wildfire danger continues across large portions of Texas. The state has experienced new wildfire starts on a daily basis over the past several days. Multiple wildfires remain active across the state and state emergency response resources remain engaged in support of local officials.

On September 3, Governor Abbott surveyed damages from the Ross Fire that impacted Palo Pinto and Jack counties, served meals to first responders, and provided an update on the state's ongoing wildfire response.

On September 2, Governor Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On August 25, Governor 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 Ross Fire in Palo Pinto and Jack Counties. State and local response personnel are actively engaged in suppression, containment, and public safety operations.

The Texas State Emergency Operations Center remains activated at Level II (Escalated Response) status in support of 26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026.

On August 4, Governor Abbott announced that he directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to activate additional state wildfire response resources in anticipation of increased fire weather conditions in areas of the Texas Panhandle.

On August 3, Governor Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS), August is typically the peak month for wildfires due to hot, dry conditions. Across large regions of Texas, wildfire potential is expected to increase due to dry vegetation, with a heightened concern over the next several days in the Panhandle and North Texas areas.

On July 4, Governor Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On June 7, Governor Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On May 21, Gov. 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. These assessments will help determine if the state meets the thresholds for additional federal disaster assistance.

On May 19, Gov. Abbott announced that the FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for a 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, 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 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 Disaster District (DD) 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): DDEOC 1 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Gray County: Ladybug Fire has burned 200 acres and is 60 percent contained.

DD 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties): DDEOC 2 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Floyd County: Blanco Canyon Fire burned 46 acres and is 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 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Eastland County: Flat Cedar Fire burned 13 acres and is contained.

Shackelford County: Hog Fire burned 24 acres and is contained.

Region 2 (Includes DDs 3, 4, and 22)

TDEM Region 2 staff are actively meeting and working with TAMFS and Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) partners to enhance response and recovery processes within the region with the assistance of TDEM Regions 1, 3, 5, and the Incident Support Task Force (ISTF). Partners from numerous state agencies and external partners are coordination on the response in the field and in the Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC).

As of September 9, damage assessments have been completed in Jack County and are ongoing in Palo Pinto County. Recovery staff have met with Palo Pinto County officials to review Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) documentation.

On August 29, the Incident Command Post (ICP) in Jack County will be staffed and operational.

On August 25, an FMAG was approved for the Ross Fire in Palo Pinto County, spanning into Jack County. As of August 27, there are no mandatory evacuation orders in place in Palo Pinto or Jack Counties. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is working in coordination with state partners to mitigate road closures around the Ross Fire.

DD 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties): DDEOC 3 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Archer County: Holiday Fire has burned 85 acres and is contained.

Wichita County: Highland Fire has burned 500 acres and is 75 percent 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): DDEOC 4 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Palo Pinto County:

- Ross Fire has burned 90,400 acres and is 83 percent contained.
- Cruso Fire has burned 146 acres and is contained.

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

As of September 10, Region 3 has been experiencing a gradual increase in fire behavior, with moderate-extreme fire behavior presenting daily across all four Districts.

DD 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties): DDEOC 5 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Bowie County: Bowie 8432 Fire has burned .25 acres and is contained.

Bowie County: Bowie 8436 Fire has burned 1.16 acres and is contained.

DD 6 – Tyler (Includes Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties): DDEOC 6 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Panola County: Panola 8431 Fire burned .50 acres and is contained.

Rusk County: Rusk 8439 burned three acres and is contained.

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

Houston County: Houston 8428 Fire burned 23 acres and is contained.

Region 5 (Includes DDs 19, 20, and 21)

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

Brooks County: Brooks 8436 burned 10.5 acres and is contained.

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

DD 18 – San Antonio (Includes Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, McMullen, Medina, and Wilson Counties)

Region 7 (Includes DDs 8, 9, and 10)

DD 8 – El Paso (Includes Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties)

DD10 – San Angelo (Includes Coke, Concho, Crockett, Edwards, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green Counties)

Menard County: Benson Fire has burned 1,395 acres and is 75 percent contained.

Schleicher County:

- Half Section Fire has burned 695 acres and is contained.
- Woodward Fire has burned 1,700 acres and is contained.

Region 8 (Includes DDs 11, 12, 13, 23, and 25)

DD 12 – Austin (Includes Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties)

Burnet County: Long Branch Fire has burned nine acres and is contained.

DD 23 – Killeen (Includes Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba Counties). DD 23 has decreased to level IV (Normal Operations) status.

San Saba County: Kurk Fire has burned 824 acres and is 95 percent contained.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):

The State Operations Center (SOC) remains activated to Level II (Escalated Response) status in support of this fire incident. The SOC is directing interagency coordination to maintain unified communication, deploy necessary resources, and support response

operations in affected regions across Texas.

ESF-2 Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

The Communications Coordination Group (CCG) partners continue to respond to issues with telecommunications resulting from the wildfire weather impacting the State of Texas.

As of September 10, Communications Unit Leaders (COMLs) from TDEM and TAMFS are supporting the Ross Fire IMT. The TAMFS COML and TDEM ESF 2 / CCG will coordinate communications resources as needed. IMT Communications Unit (COMU) personnel continue to provide COML replacements to support operations.

AT&T / FirstNet continues to support the Ross Wildfire operations with mobile cellular platforms. The AT&T / FirstNet Cellular Rapid Deployable (CRD) have been demobilized. The SATCOLT supporting the ICP is still operational. TDEM CRDs and STARLINKs are staged at the ICP.

The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) has demobilized all resources.

ESF-5 Incident Support Task Force (ISTF):

The Incident Support Task Force is assisting in local response and recovery operations in counties affected by the Ross Fire, assessing needs that become more visible as the fire containment progresses.

Damage assessments have been completed in Jack County and in Palo Pinto County. The team has begun a staggered demobilization from the incident, with eight members fully demobilized and plans to demobilize more while maintaining operational priorities.

As of September 9, four members are deployed to Mineral Wells in support of the Ross Fire in Palo Pinto County, providing Emergency Operations Center (EOC) support, assisting with incident resource staging and logistics, supporting mass care operations, and conducting community needs assessments.

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):

AgriLife is monitoring fire weather conditions and SOC response activity in person for coverage. Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Specialists and County Extension Strike Team members are on standby to support any efforts associated with animal

response or other fire weather response efforts as requested.

An AgriLife representative is activated to TDEM DDEOC 4 for situational awareness. AgriLife has DAR Specialists and Area Chiefs on standby. As of September 5, AgriLife DAR Specialists and County Extension Agents are conducting fenceline damage assessments in safe-to-access areas of Jack and Palo Pinto Counties and distributing information on water quality and well testing. Since August 28, 36 agricultural damage reports have been submitted through the State of Texas iSTAT portal for damages to fencing, crops, livestock, and equipment. 13 landowners requested assistance from the AgriLife Extension Service, and County Extension Agents have contacted those landowners to provide relief assistance.

As of September 8, this is the final report for the 26-0021 Ross Fire incident unless significant additional needs are identified. County AgriLife Extension Agents and DAR Specialists will continue to follow up with landowners and affected individuals to address recovery needs and provide assistance as those needs arise.

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 735 personnel, with 21 Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Single Resource Engines/Tenders, 56 TIFMAS Wildland Engine Strike Teams, a TIFMAS Communications Trailer, and a variety of aircraft, engines, dozers, and motor graders committed to this event.

As of September 12, the TAMFS response to the Ross Fire in Palo Pinto and Jack Counties has a total of 292 personnel, 38 engines, tenders, heavy equipment, and three aircraft committed to the fire.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD is supporting TAMFS in suppressing wildland fires throughout the state of Texas.

As of September 12, TMD has activated 18 personnel and two aircraft for this response.

On August 19, TMD activated one Rotary Wing Medium MRP and one Rotary Wing Heavy MRP with crews to include one UH-60s and one CH-47 to provide direct support with aerial fire suppression capabilities in response to ongoing fire weather.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

Texas Game Wardens have identified resources ready to support as needed in response to the increased wildfire threat affecting the State of Texas. TPWD is working closely with TDEM and other ESF partners through the SOC to ensure resources are

available if needed.

As of September 7, the TPWD Wildland Wildfire Team, which has been deployed in support of the Ross Wildfire response has demobilized and returned back to Headquarters. Texas Game Warden UAS teams responded to the Bug Fire in Palo Pinto County, providing aerial video, hotspot detection, and boat traffic control to support helicopter water-drop operations, while Texas Game Wardens and Park Police continue to monitor the situation and remain ready to provide additional support as needed.

TPWD Game Wardens and Park Police are supporting local Law Enforcement with road closures and evacuations as needed.

TPWD Aviation teams has a helicopter available for wildfire support.

TPWD Game Warden Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) teams supported local Law Enforcement and TAMFS with situational awareness and hot spot locating for the Rio Escondido and Ross wildfires.

TPWD Wildland Wildfire team deployed two Type-6 Engines to support response efforts with the Ross wildfire.

Texas Game Warden UAS team assisted with aerial photos of the Incident Command Post.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

TxDOT works to maintain safe roadways for the traveling public during adverse conditions including wildfires. TxDOT is staffing the SOC and coordinating with TAMFS for ongoing DMS wildfire messaging. Up to date road conditions are available on drivete.xas.org.

As of August 28, TxDOT is tracking two state-maintained road closures due to smoke and low visibility from wildfires. The TxDOT Fort Worth district is providing traffic control support and equipment and operators to assist locals in support of the Ross Fire.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

In response to wildfire activity, DSHS is continuously monitoring wildfires and requests for assistance in the state of Texas. The DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is at limited activation and supporting the response. The SMOC is monitoring impacts to healthcare facilities in the impacted area. Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) resources are supporting wildland fire fighting operations with force protection, evacuation assistance, and rescue operations in the local impacted area and resource coordination with the TAMFS.

As of August 27, EMTF resources continue to support Texas wildfire firefighting operations in the Texas Panhandle and portions of North, East and South Texas, providing force protection, evacuation assistance and rescue operations in coordination

with TAMFS.

As of September 11, 13 Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Package teams are assigned, staged, and assisting TAMFS across TDEM regions impacted by wildfires. Additional resources include WPU, ambulances, Rapid Extraction Module (REM) Teams, Medical Unit Leaders (MEDL), a physician, and Medical Incident Support Teams (MIST).

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 through the AgriStress Helpline by professionals familiar with rural challenges at (833) 897-2474.

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 Public Safety (DPS):

In support of the wildfires occurring statewide, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) personnel from the Weatherford and Mineral Wells areas are providing resources to assist fire response. Personnel include the Texas Highway Patrol (THP), Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE), and K-9 Troopers.

As of August 29, DPS officers with the Infrastructure Operations Division (IOD) deployed the Emergency Communications Command Center Trailer to Palo Pinto County in support of field operations related to the Ross Fire.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

Texans On Mission (TXM):

As of August 29, TXM deployed a team with two laundry units to Palo Pinto County to support firefighters at the staging area. As of September 10, TXM completed 635 loads of laundry and provided 428 volunteer hours.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
Mass Care	Liaison	4	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
ISTF HQ Staff	Liaison	4	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
VOAD	Liaison	2	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TDEM	ISTF HQ	1	0	Assigned	Mineral Wells
TDEM	ISTF Regional Coordinator	1	0	Assigned	Mineral Wells
TDEM	ISTF Member	8	0	Assigned	Mineral Wells
CCG	SATCOLT	0	1	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	Cellular Rapid Deployable	0	2	Activated	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	SOW	0	1	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	COML	0	1	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	Charging Station	0	2	Released	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	STARLINK CRD	0	3	Released	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	COMT	0	3	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	WIFI Hotspot Trailer	0	1	Released	Palo Pinto Co
CCG	STARLINK	0	1	Released	Palo Pinto Co
TAMFS	Command Staff	7	0	Assigned	Regions 1, 2 & 5
TAMFS	General Staff	30	0	Assigned	Regions 1, 2 & 5
TAMFS	Operations	44	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	Incident Support	54	0	Assigned	Regions 1, 2 & 5
TAMFS	Agency Reps	13	0	Assigned	Regions 1, 2 & 5
TAMFS	Aviation	36	39	Assigned	Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8
TAMFS	Out of State (Field Ops)	410	68	Assigned	Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 & 8
TAMFS	Field Operations	122	69	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	ST Engine/Tender	316	66	Assigned	Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TIFAMS	Single Resource	0	27	Assigned	Regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 & 8
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	1	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	EMTF SCO	1	1	Assigned	TAMFS EOC
DSHS	MIST	1	1	Assigned	TAMFS EOC
DSHS	WLFS PKG 19	6	4	Assigned	Potter Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 20 + REM	10	6	Assigned	Burnet Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 21	6	4	Assigned	Wichita Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 22	6	4	Assigned	Brown Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 24 + WPU	8	6	Assigned	McLennon Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 25	6	4	Assigned	Taylor Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 26	6	4	Assigned	Lubbock Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 27	6	4	Assigned	Kerr Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 28	6	4	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 29 + WPU + REM	12	8	Assigned	Young Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 30 + (2) WPU + REM	14	10	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 31	6	4	Assigned	Jim Wells Co
DSHS	Area MEDL-1 + Tech Specialist	2	1	Available	Parker Co
DSHS	AREA MEDL-2 + Tech Specialist	2	1	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DSHS	WLFS AMBUS MPV 2-04 + Physician	8	3	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DSHS	IMT MIST	1	1	Released	Palo Pinto Co
DPS	Troopers	8	8	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DPS	Lieutenant	2	2	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DPS	SWIC Communications	1	1	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
DPS	EM Communications	4	1	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TMD	UH-60 ALAMO-01	10	1	Available	San Antonio
TMD	CH-47 TANDM-05	8	1	Available	Grand Prairie
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Available	Austin
TPWD	Aviation Helicopters	1	3	Available	Austin
TPWD	Game Wardens/ State Park Police	43	43	Available	TDEM Regions 2 & 8
TPWD	EOC Liaison	1	1	Available	Fort Worth
TPWD	Aviation UAS	1	2	Available	TDEM Region 2
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District Support	20	12	Assigned	Amarillo District

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>

W. Nim Kidd, MLS, MPA

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)