Texas Division of Emergency Management

State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	**26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026**
Date	October 26, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM October 19, 2026, to 8:00 AM October 26, 2026
Report Number	209

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
DDs Active	5, 6, 14, 15

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: While recent rainfall has improved conditions across much of the state, high wildfire danger continues across some areas. 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 October 2, Governor Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On September 16, 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 Hydra Fire in Bosque County, which has threatened homes and infrastructure and prompted local evacuations.

On September 3, Gov. 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, Gov. Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On August 25, Gov. Abbott announced that FEMA has approved a request from the

State of Texas for an 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, Gov. 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, Gov. 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, Gov. Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

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

On May 21, Gov. Abbott announced that he directed 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 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) status.

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) status.

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 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) status.

Taylor County:

- Newman Fire burned 99 acres and is contained.

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

DD 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties): DDEOC 3 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) status.

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 returned to Level IV (Normal Conditions) status.

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. TAMFS has positioned additonal wildifre resources in Region 3.

DD 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties) On October 16, DDEOC 5 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Bowie County:

- Bowie 9722 Fire burned three acres and is contained.

Red River County:

- Red River 9580 Fire burned two 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): On October 16, DDEOC 6 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Anderson County:

- Anderson 9624 Fire burned 2.5 acres and is contained.
- Anderson 9674 Fire burned 75 acres and is contained.
- Anderson 9680 Fire burned 1.50 acres and is contained.

Camp County:

- Camp 9675 Fire burned one acre and is contained.

Cherokee County:

- Cherokee 9699 Fire burned one acre and is contained.

Panola County:

- Panola 9654 Fire burned one acre and is contained.
- Panola 9707 Fire burned two acres and is contained.

Rusk County:

- Rusk 9578 Fire burned 0.84 acres and is contained.
- Rusk 9682 Fire burned 0.63 acres and is contained.
- Rusk 9689 Fire burned 3.30 acres and is contained.

Upshur County:

- Upshur 9605 Fire burned two acres and is contained.
- Upshur 9661 Fire burned three acres and is contained.

Wood County:

- Wood 9594 Fire burned 1.5 acres and is contained.

DD 14 – Lufkin (Includes Angelina, Houston, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties) On October 16, DDEOC 14 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Nacogdoches County:

- Nacogdoches 9583 Fire burned three acres and is contained.
- Nacogdoches 9649 Fire burned 1.50 acres and is contained.
- Nacogdoches 9697 Fire burned 11 acres and is contained.
- Nacogdoches 9693 Fire burned 1.5 acres and is contained.

Newton County:

- Newton 9692 Fire burned one acre and is contained.

San Augustine County:

- Mickey Branch Fire has burned 0.25 acres and is contained.
- San Augustine 9611 Fire burned one acre and is contained.
- San Augustine 9667 Fire burned 0.50 acres and is contained.

Polk County:

- Polk 9670 Fire burned 2.80 acres and is contained.

Trinity County:

- Trinity 9656 Fire burned 16.50 acres and is contained.
- Kickapoo Creek Fire burned 300 acres and is contained.

Tyler County:

- Tyler 9724 Fire burned one acre and is contained.

DD15 – Beaumont (Includes Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, and Orange Counties) On October 16, DDEOC 15 activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Jefferson County:

- Jefferson 9663 Fire burned three acres and is 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)

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

DD 11 – Waco (Includes Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties)

Limestone County:

- Limestone 9597 Fire burned 3.3 acres and is contained.

DD 13 – Bryan (Includes Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, and Washington Counties).

Leon County:

- Leon 9702 Fire burned nine acres and is 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-6 Mass Care (ISTF)

The Incident Support Task Force continues to monitor the potential for Mass Care needs throughout upcoming operational periods. The Mass Care team demobilized on September 18 and will remain on standby, prepared to re-engage should additional community needs or requests arise.

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.

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. In total, TAMFS has 125 personnel, with 12 Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Single Resource Engines/Tenders, two TIFMAS Strike Team Engine/Tenders, and a variety of aircraft, engines, dozers, and motor graders committed to additional fires around the state.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

On October 14, TMD released all resources from this event.

On October 9, TMD activated one Rotary Wing Heavy Mission Ready Package (MRP) with crews to provide direct support to TAMFS with aerial fire suppression capabilities and response to critical 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 25, TPWD currently has no resources deployed or supporting wildfire response efforts.

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 Dynamic Messaging Signs (DMS) wildfire messaging. Up to date road conditions are available on drivetexas.org.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

As of October 3, all EMTF resources have been demobilized.

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):

As of September 17, all DPS resources have returned to regular duty status. DPS Aviation Operations has one Bell helicopter located in Austin that is ready to assist with fire suppression efforts.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TAMFS	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Region 8
TAMFS	Dozers	60	26	Assigned	Regions 3, 4, 5, 8
TAMFS	Aviation	21	16	Assigned	Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8
TIFMAS	Single Resource / OH	42	12	Assigned	Regions 3, 4, 8
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	1	Assigned	Austin
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Available	Austin
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District Support	26	23	Assigned	San Angelo and Waco Districts

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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