



**Texas Division of Emergency Management
State Situation Report**

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	24-0002 07 JAN Severe Weather
Date	January 16, 2024
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM January 15 to 8:00 AM January 16, 2024
Report Number	8

Regions Affected	
TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
DDs Active	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On January 7, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), State Operations Center (SOC), to Level II (Escalated Response) in response to the winter weather throughout the state. Local and state agencies are responding to freezing weather conditions. State agencies continue to coordinate resources as the weather evolves.

TDEM has requested the following agencies report to the SOC for emergency support services:

- **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):** TxDOT works to maintain safe roadways for the traveling public during adverse winter weather conditions.
- **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service -Texas - Task Force 1&2 (TX-TF1 & TX-TF2):** TX-TF1 and TX-TF2 are on standby, and a liaison officer (LNO) has been assigned to the SOC.
- **Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** 16 TAMFS personnel were assisting TxDOT Paris District with winter weather operations.
- **Texas Department of State Health Services (Texas Emergency Medical Task Force):** DSHS has five Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) and one AMBUS on standby.
- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ):** TCEQ is monitoring air, water, and wastewater.
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):** AgriLife Extension has two LNO's assigned to the SOC.
- **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service - Texas Public Works Response Team (TEEX/TX-PWRT):** Strike teams are rostered; generator

contractors are available and the TEEEX Region 2 Manager has reported to DDEOC 16 (Houston).

- **Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC):** Power outages are being monitored and coordination has begun with utility providers across the threat area.
- **Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):** The TAHC Public Information Officer is providing communications on animals and livestock for winter weather preparedness.
- **Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS):** TXDPS has 500 Troopers available and is ready to respond to the winter weather event.
- **Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):** HHSC has an LNO assigned to the SOC and Long-term Care Regulation has alerted facilities.
- **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD has prepared resources consisting of 500 Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers for support.
- **Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD has activated five Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) for winter weather response.
- **Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR):** Technology infrastructure is being monitored.
- **Texas Education Agency (TEA):** School districts across the state are being monitored.
- **Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (Texas VOAD):** Coordination of volunteer organizations across the state for response.
- **The Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC):** Monitoring of the state's natural gas supply with communication to the oil and gas industry

Texans are urged to make an emergency plan, follow instructions from local officials and first responders, and keep an emergency supply kit. Texans can access weather safety information by visiting [TexasReady.gov](https://www.texasready.gov), locate warming centers at tdem.texas.gov/warm, check road conditions at [DriveTexas.org](https://www.drive-texas.org), and obtain flood tracking information at [TexasFlood.org](https://www.texasflood.org).

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid and 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 Disaster Districts (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)

A wind chill warning is in effect for all counties in the district. There are no reported road closures due to the weather. Most flights out of Amarillo are on time, some are delayed or canceled due to the weather at the destination.

DD 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties)

Wind Chill Warnings and Advisories are in effect for the entire district. Lubbock Preston Airport cancelled six flights and delayed four on January 15. There are no reports of impacts to infrastructure.

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)

Winter Chill Advisory continues for DD 7. Comanche, Eastland, and Stephens Counties are under a Hard Freeze Warning.

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

DD 6 – Tyler (Includes Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties)

Gregg County is EOC is activated. TxDOT and local sand crews are retreating roadways due to multiple accidents.

Smith County is EOC is activated. There has been accumulation of ice on roadways that has resulted in an increased call volume of motor vehicle accidents (MVA).

Region 5 (Includes DDs 19-21)

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

Winter Weather Warning and Advisories for DD 21 continues. Cameron and Hidalgo County EOCs are activated. TxDOT began brine operations on January 15 in Cameron and Hidalgo Counties.

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

DD 17 – Victoria (Includes Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, Jackson, and Victoria Counties)

Winter Weather Warnings for DD17 continues.

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

DDEOC 18 moved to Level III (virtual) on January 15.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management:

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

TDEM CCG partners continue to monitor the situation and are preparing resources in the event of communications outages. Partners across the public, private and volunteer sectors are assessing and adjusting their resources in accordance with the situation.

The Cherokee County Electric Cooperative Association (CCECA) experienced a fiber cut which impacted their Fiber/Broadband access. The CCG, in coordination with the Department of Information Resources (DIR), assisted in locating the supplier Point of Contact (POC) information. Service has been restored.

Cellular providers are monitoring the weather and preparing resources to respond if needed. Cellular partners are conducting generator refueling operations and strategically staging resources. Outreach is being conducted to ensure agencies and jurisdictions are aware of the 24-hour hotline numbers.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) operators have begun providing local critical infrastructure reports (CIR) on weather and local issues. The 7290 Net is monitoring impacts in East Texas. The 7290 Net provides situational awareness from Amateur Radio operators from across the state.

The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) is providing confirmation and status of reported 9-1-1 outages. CSEC is providing the causes and impacts of the 9-1-1 outages.

The Texas Telecomm Emergency Response Team (TXTERT) reported that the Sachse and Frisco Police Departments experienced a temporary 9-1-1 service interruption.

Mass Care: Mass Care and the Incident Support Task Force (ISTF) continues to ensure that Texas Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), mass care agencies, and disaster nonprofit partners receive regular weather updates and preparedness resources. ISTF has assigned four personnel to the SOC. HQ and regional staff are actively assessing the weather and communicating with locals for any unmet needs.

Sheltering: As of 5:00 AM today, 459 seasonal relief centers have been identified to be opened by local officials during this winter weather event. The Salvation Army has increased the capacity at many of their shelters. American Red Cross is supporting local areas with training staff and supplying blankets to some local jurisdictions.

Food Services: Texas Baptist Men (TBM) is providing breakfast and dinner. Approximately 3,426 meals have been provided.

Seasonal Relief Centers as of 5:00 AM	
Region	# Open
1	71
2	107
3	46
4	61
5	59
6	33
7	10
8	72
Total	459

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services (AgriLife):

AgriLife has 22 Disaster Assessment and Recovery agents, County Extension Strike Team members, and the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) are on standby to support ESF11 for animal response and recovery efforts.

Texas A&M AgriLife Marketing and Communications has distributed preparedness and educational resources through the Texas EDEN website and the county agent network to support local governments.

AgriLife Extension has two liaisons providing 24/7 coverage at the SOC through January 17. AgriLife Extension DDEOC representatives continue to monitor DDEOC activations virtually and AgriLife Extension liaisons began supporting the DD 18 activation on January 14.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service – Texas Task Force 1 (TEEX/TX-TF1) / Texas Task Force 2 (TEEX/TX-TF2): TEEX is supporting the State Operations Center with one liaison officer. TX-TF1 and TX-TF2 are prepared to assist with search and rescue operations. TX-TF2 activated a Type 3 Task Force consisting of 41 personnel positioned in Region2.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service - Texas Public Works Response Team (TEEX/TX-PWRT): TEEX Extension Managers have participated in various DDEOC coordination calls throughout the day. TEEX SOC LNO is monitoring water main break reports and conveying this information to Regional Managers and TCEQ. TX-PWRT continues to support and coordinate operations. Strike teams are rostered, and generator contractors are available. TEEX Extension Managers are available for Disaster District Emergency Operations Center (DDEOC) activations. The TEEX Region 2 Manager is reporting to DDEOC 16 (Houston) on January 15.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): TAMFS is prepared to provide support with Incident Management Teams, 4x4 vehicles, Motor Graders, Saw Crews, and Fire Engines to backfill fire stations.

On January 14, 16 TAMFS personnel began assisting TxDOT Paris District with winter weather operations on Interstate Highway (IH) 30, from east of Hunt County to Franklin County. TAMFS crews worked with TxDOT, operating TxDOT brine trucks and maintainers to keep traffic flowing on IH-30. TAMFS representatives are virtually monitoring the situation in DDEOC's 5 and 6.

TAMFS crews assisting TxDOT have completed all winter weather assignments along IH-30 in Hunt, Hopkins, and Franklin Counties. All Tier One roads have been cleared and traffic flow is back to normal. All TAMFS crews were released on January 15.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC):

The TAHC Public Information Officer is providing communications on animal and livestock winter weather preparedness to the public on social media outlets.

A TAHC representative has been assigned to participate in the weather calls and attend all necessary meetings. The TAHC continues monitoring the weather forecasts and will communicate to regional staff as appropriate. Any delays or closures will be announced on the [TAHC website](#).

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has staff available for air, water (including potable water), and waste response.

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR): DIR continues to monitor the situation. No requests for network or technology have been made and no cyber threats have been identified.

Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS): TXDPS has 500 Troopers available and is ready to respond to the winter weather event. TXDPS is actively monitoring roadway conditions and responding to requests for assistance. TXDPS Highway Patrol (THP) is providing state-wide support and personnel at several DDEOC's and the SOC.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): DSHS Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF) continues to monitor the current weather conditions and is ready to elevate their readiness as the situation evolves. DSHS Oxygen vendor has been placed on standby and the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) network contacted dialysis facilities to update their status. DSHS has assigned two LNO's to the SOC on January 14. [Beginning January 16, EMTF 1 \(Panhandle\), EMTF 2 \(North Texas\), EMTF 4 \(East Texas\), EMTF 7 \(Central Texas\), EMTF 9 \(West Texas\) and an AMBUS will be on standby.](#)

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

TxDOT EMC and a SOC liaison are assigned to the SOC for a 24-hour response. [TxDOT EOC and all impacted District EOCs are activated for 24-hour operations.](#)

TxDOT Fleet Operations Division has shops open 24 hours for mechanical support and additional equipment has been rented. TxDOT has moved internal crews from West and Central districts for reassignment to assist impacted districts.

TxDOT and TDEM have also coordinated with the Texas Military Department (TMD) with winter weather MRP's the Kilgore area.

TxDOT Communications Division has partnered with TDEM Communications to provide information for social media. TxDOT Traffic Division is utilizing Dynamic Message Signs to alert the public of travel conditions and road closures.

State of Texas Assistance Requests (STAR) to treat routes leading to critical infrastructure and other emergency service locations continue to be submitted and filled by TxDOT. A STAR for a heavy-duty wrecker from TMD will be dispatched to the city of Boerne area to move tractor trailers from the travel lanes to the shoulders on IH 10.

[TxDOT districts in TDEM regions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 continue 24-hour operations in treating roadways, monitoring road conditions, responding to incidents and is strategically reassigning and moving internal and regional crews to assist impacted districts. TxDOT has sent three maintenance crews within Bexar County to inspect and re-treat roadways that have had multiple MVA's. The Rainbow Bridge on SH73 from Port Arthur to Bridge City has been closed by DPS and an alternate route is to](#)

use the Veterans Memorial Bridge. DriveTX.org has had over 127,000 visits during this weather event.

The Galveston Ferry Operations are considering modified ferry route schedules due to the weather. The Texarkana Travel Center on IH-30 and Wasco Travel Center on IH-20 are both closed due to weather conditions. Managed lanes in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are closed and will remain closed until the weather threat subsides.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC): HHSC has an LNO assigned to the SOC. Long-term Care Regulation has alerted facilities instructing them to notify of any unmet needs. Ice, water, and freight vendors are on standby to respond.

Long-Term Care Regulation reported nine nursing facilities and ten assisted living facilities are currently impacted from the winter weather. The primary issue is the inoperability of the sprinkler systems, and a fire watch has been implemented at the impacted facilities.

The Texas Information and Referral Network (TIRN) 2-1-1 is distributing information about warming locations and overnight shelters. TIRN 2-1-1 had 79 disaster calls on January 14.

The San Antonio State Hospital is experiencing a partial HVAC outage. Patients have been relocated to another part of the facility. All other state hospitals and state supported living centers are monitoring conditions.

Ten Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) clinics were closed on January 15 due to weather. Additional WIC clinics had pre-planned closures due to the holiday.

Texas Military Department (TMD): TMD activated a SOC Support Team of six personnel, January 11.

TMD has activated Winter Weather Mission Ready Packages (MRPs) consisting of 90 personnel and 40 high profile vehicles. Units are staged in Lubbock, Abilene, Mineral Wells (Fort Wolters), Dallas, and Round Rock.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

TPWD has prepared resources consisting of Texas Game Wardens and State Park Police Officers for support. The Law Enforcement Division will also provide 24/7 personnel to support the SOC and any activated DDEOC. Texas Games Wardens in Amarillo have assisted with multiple vehicle accidents, blocking of highways, driving stranded motorists to hotels, and assisting stranded motorists.

TPWD has been in communication with activated Disaster Districts (DD). Texas Game Wardens in Parker, Wise and Palo Pinto counties are ready to support in response to the severe weather threat.

The following TPWD state parks are closed due to the severe weather conditions: Daingerfield State Park (SP); Dinosaur Valley SP; Cedar Hill SP; Atlanta SP; Copper Breaks SP; Purtil Creek SP; and Caddo Lake SP. TPWD Park alerts have been issued to external websites to warn visitors.

Texas Salvation Army (TSA): TSA has Seasonal Relief Centers open across the State of Texas.

Texas Baptist Men (TBM): TBM are working with other volunteer agencies to provide hot meals and feed the homeless during the Texas freeze. Services started on January 13 and will continue until the freeze ends. TBM has logged 308 volunteer hours, prepared 3,426 meals, and provided 13 showers.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
TDEM	Mass Care ESF6	2	0	Assigned	SOC
TDEM	ISTF HQ Staff	1	0	Assigned	SOC
AgriLife	SOC Liaisons	2	0	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	Admin	3	0	Available	College Station
AgriLife	Marketing/ Communications	1	0	Available	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Agents	22	22	Available	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	70	0	Available	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	2	0	Assigned	DD 18
TEEX TX-TF2	Type 3 US&R	41	0	Activated	Dallas/ Fort Worth
TEEX PWRT	DDEOC 16	1	1	Assigned	Houston
TEEX PWRT	ESF3 SOC LNO	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TAMFS	Vehicle Operators	16	0	Released	Paris
TAMFS	Motor Grader with crew	0	2	Standby	TDEM Region 1
TAMFS	Motor Grader with Crew	0	2	Standby	TDEM Region 8
TAMFS	Winter Weather Support Crews	0	1	Released	TxDOT Parris District
DSHS	SOC LNO	2	0	Assigned	Austin

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
HHSC	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TAHC	SOC Representative	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAHC	TAHC Emergency Management	2	0	Available	Virtual
TCEQ	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	SOC MRP	6	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	WW MRP A	18	8	Assigned	Ft Wolters
TMD	WW MRP B	18	8	Assigned	Kilgore
TMD	WW MRP C	18	8	Assigned	Round Rock
TMD	WW MRP E	18	8	Assigned	Dallas
TMD	WW MRP F	18	8	Assigned	Abilene
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	Thermal Imaging Drone w/Operator	30	30	Assigned	Statewide
TPWD	Game Wardens & State Park Police Officers	500	500	Assigned	Statewide
TPWD	All-Terrain Vehicle	20	20	Assigned	Statewide
TxDOT	SOC Liaisons	1	0	Activated	Austin
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Activated	Austin
TXDPS	State Trooper	2	1	Assigned	Austin
TXDPS	State Troopers	500	500	Available	Statewide

FINAL COMMENTS: The SOC remains at Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) and continues to monitor the situation. The SOC 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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