



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

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	24-0002 07 JAN Severe Weather
Date	January 17, 2024
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM January 16 to 8:00 AM January 17, 2024
Report Number	9

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 assisted TxDOT Paris District with winter weather operations.
- **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):** DSHS has five EMTFs and two AMBUSs 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, locate warming centers at tdem.texas.gov/warm, check road conditions at DriveTexas.org, and obtain flood tracking information at 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)

The wind chill warning has expired for all counties in the district. No closures have been reported for infrastructure, government, or schools. All flights in and out of Amarillo are on time.

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

There are no reports of road closures due to the weather. Lubbock Preston Airport had two delayed flights on January 16. 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)

The winter weather warnings and advisories have expired. No closures have been reported for infrastructure, government, or schools. The Coleman ISD in Coleman County and Woodson ISD in Throckmorton County have delayed their school starts to 10:00AM today.

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)

Wintry precipitation has ended across the district, ice- and snow-covered road surfaces will remain covered and hazardous through the morning of January 17.

Gregg and Smith County EOCs remain activated. Multiple vehicle slide-offs occurred along Interstate Highway (IH) 20 on January 16, while secondary roads continued to be a major issue.

Region 5 (Includes DDs 19-21)

DD 19 – Laredo (Includes Jim Hogg, Starr, Webb, and Zapata, Counties)

The city of Laredo issued a local disaster declaration on January 16.

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

A hard freeze warning remains in effect until the morning of January 17. Cameron and Hidalgo County EOCs are activated. TxDOT continues brine operations following reports of ice on roadways.

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

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

A Hard Freeze Warning remains in effect for the entire district.

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.

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 3:00 AM, January 17, 463 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. The American Red Cross delivered over 3,000 blankets, 200 cots, comfort kits, etc. to their partners.

American Red Cross (ARC) Partners: overnight on Tuesday the ARC continued working with their governmental and non-governmental partners to deliver relief services during the winter storm.

- Support to partner agencies in over 30 counties preparing hundreds of warming centers and shelters with ARC staff on standby if needed.
- Staging of relief materials at the ARC DFW warehouse, East Texas office, Houston office, and Austin office to reduce delivery times to their partner agencies.
- Several of these centers were expected to close on Tuesday and others will remain open.
- ARC continues to provide supplies to warming centers on request.
- ARC Disaster Assistance Teams responded to housing fires at multiple locations.

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

Seasonal Relief Centers as of 3:00 AM	
Region	# Identified
1	71
2	109
3	46
4	61
5	62
6	36
7	9
8	69
Total	463

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 provide support 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 Disaster District Emergency Operations Center (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 DDEOC activations. [The TEEX Region 2 Manager reported to DDEOC 16 \(Houston\) January 15-16. The SOC Liaison is working with TCEQ on situational updates of water outages and boil water notices.](#)

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.

TAMFS representatives are virtually monitoring the situation in DDEOC’s 5 and 6.

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.

TCEQ is currently tracking 27 drinking water systems that are on a Boil Water Notice (BWN) serving a population of 39,030. Two boil water notices have been rescinded.

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.

TXDPS Director McCraw renewed the [emergency declaration](#) on January 16 which justifies certain exemptions for motor carriers in Texas. The emergency declaration first took effect on January 11, and the renewal will remain in effect for the duration of the emergency or for five days, whichever is less.

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 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 has released the internal crews from West and Central districts to return to their home districts.

TxDOT Communications Division has partnered with TDEM Communications to provide information for social media. [TxDOT Traffic Division utilized over 200 Dynamic Message Signs](#) to alert the public of travel conditions and road closures.

[DriveTexas.org](#) has had over 127,000 visits during this weather event.

The Texarkana Travel Center on IH-30 and Wasco Travel Center on IH-20 are both closed due to road conditions, [anticipating reopening later Wednesday](#). [The managed lanes in the Dallas/Fort Worth area have re-opened](#).

As of 2:55 PM January 16, 484 roads remain impacted with no road closures reported. TxDOT continues to treat and monitor roadways. Tier I and Tier II remain priority. Tier III and Tier IV roads will be treated/monitored as resources become available.

TxDOT EOC has gone to a monitoring stage and expects to stand down tomorrow.

Local TxDOT EOCs in the impacted districts have begun standing down; all EOCs anticipate standing down by Wednesday. TxDOT Fleet Operations Division will end 24/7 support of this event once all 25 districts return to normal operations.

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.

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, Wylie, Wichita Falls, Round Rock, Brownwood, and Abilene.](#)

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.

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; Purtis Creek SP; and Caddo Lake SP. TPWD Park alerts have been issued to external websites to warn visitors.

[TPWD Game Wardens assisted with rescuing stunned sea turtles due to severe winter weather.](#)

All TPWD offices will be returning to normal operations starting Wednesday.

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

Texas Baptist Men (TBM): TBM continue 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	3	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	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TEEX PWRT	Strike Teams	26	0	Available	Statewide
TEEX PWRT	DDEOC Members	7	7	Available	Statewide
TAMFS	Motor Grader with crew	0	2	Standby	TDEM Region 1
TAMFS	Motor Grader with Crew	0	2	Standby	TDEM Region 8
DSHS	SOC LNO	2	0	Assigned	Austin
HHSC	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TAHC	SOC Representative	1	0	Assigned	SOC

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equipment	Status	Location
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	Lubbock
TMD	WW MRP B	18	8	Assigned	Ft Wolters
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
TxDOT	EOC-HQs	10	0	Activated	Austin
TxDOT	Districts	3,079	2,169	Activated	Statewide
TxDOT	Fleet Division	129	99	Activated	Statewide
TxDOT	Support Services	2	0	Activated	Statewide
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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