



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information in Blue Text

Event Name	24-0001 Wildfire Season 2024
Date	April 8, 2024
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM April 7 to 8:00 AM April 8, 2024
Report Number	40

TDEM Regions Affected	1
DDs Active	1 & 2

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:

On April 5, TDEM announced activation of state emergency response resources in anticipation of critical fire weather conditions expected for the western half of the state beginning Friday and lasting through the weekend.

On March 28, Governor Abbott renewed his Wildfire Disaster Declaration for the Texas Panhandle and other counties currently identified as in drought or severe wildfire risks. Those counties listed in the declaration include Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collingsworth, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Fannin, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Gregg, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Harrison, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Moore, Motley, Nacogdoches, Newton, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, Stonewall, Swisher, Terry, Throckmorton, Upshur, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Yoakum, and Young Counties.

On March 22, Governor Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to activate state emergency response resources ahead of critical wildfire conditions anticipated for the Panhandle and West Texas over the weekend and into the beginning of the week.

On March 13, Governor Abbott announced that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has approved his request for disaster declarations in Texas communities affected by wildfires in the Panhandle. Texas counties included in the declarations are Armstrong, Carson, Donley, Gray, Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Sherman, and Wheeler.

The SBA has granted access to its Home Disaster Loans, Business Physical Disaster Loans, and Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program, which will provide low-interest loans to qualifying homeowners, renters, and businesses in affected communities following the Smokehouse Creek Fire and the Windy Deuce Fire.

Hemphill County: A Disaster Loan Outreach Center is located at the Hemphill County Courthouse at 400 Main St. in Canadian, TX 79014, which will be open from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

Hutchinson County: A Disaster Loan Outreach Center is located at the Dome Civic Center & Convention Center at 1113 Bulldog Blvd. in Borger, TX 79007, which will be open from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

A Disaster Loan Outreach Center is located at the Celebration Family Church, West Room, at 811 E Broadway Street, Fritch, TX 79306, which will be open from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays.

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES:

1. Protect life and property.
2. Support rapid & 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 DDs 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): Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)

Carson County: A disaster declaration was issued by the County Judge on February 28.

Gray County: Gray County issued a disaster declaration on February 28. County officials submitted a Disaster Summary Outline to TDEM on March 1.

Hemphill County: Hemphill County submitted a Disaster Summary Outline to TDEM on March 3, and issued a disaster declaration extension on March 17.

Hutchinson County: The County Judge issued a disaster declaration on February 27, a Disaster Summary Outline on March 1 and disaster declaration continuation, and Letter to the Governor on March 4. A request for a Fire Management Assistant

Grant (FMAG) was submitted and approved by FEMA on February 27 for the Smokehouse Creek Fire (FM-5488-TX).

Moore County: A request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) was submitted and later approved by FEMA on February 27 for the Windy Deuce Fire (FM-5487-TX).

Potter County: Potter County issued a disaster declaration and submitted a Letter to the Governor on February 27. The city of Amarillo issued a disaster declaration on February 27.

Randall County: Randall County submitted a Letter to the Governor on February 27.

Roberts County: Roberts County issued a disaster declaration on February 27, and a Disaster Summary Outline on March 4.

Wheeler County: Wheeler County Judge issued a disaster declaration on February 29.

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

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM): TDEM coordinated with Agriculture and Natural Resources, AgriLife, and various private sector partners to process donated fencing equipment for the Animal Supply Points in Region 1.

TDEM Communications Coordination Group (CCG): CCG is supporting internal and external communications requests through the deployment of Iridium satellite phones and hand-held land mobile radios (LMR).

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife): AgriLife Extension administrators and Hemphill County Agent participated in a legislative hearing on the Panhandle Wildfire Response on April 2-4, 2024. The Animal Supply Points (ASP) are operating with the resident County Extension Agent (CEA) and one DAR agent. The DAR unit will continue to assist CEA with the ASP until the end of April.

AgriLife developed a Disaster Recovery Agents (DAR) publication *Returning Home After a Wildfire* hosted on the www.texashelp.tamu.edu website. A press release was made on [Recognizing Mental Health Challenges and Symptoms following Wildfires](#).

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): TIFMAS resources are staged in the following locations: two strike teams (ST) to Amarillo (ST 130/131), one strike team to Plainview (ST 133), one strike team to Lubbock (ST 134), one strike team to Dumas (ST 132), one strike team to Big Spring (ST 135), and one strike team to Alpine (ST 136).

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC): The total number of estimated reported animal losses to date is: 7,350. See the [TAHC Natural Disasters webpage](#) for updated information and resources for the 2024 Texas Panhandle Wildfires.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ): TCEQ has staff available to provide technical assistance on debris and waste management operations and to respond to any air/water/waste issues including drinking water and wastewater or emergency response.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): Motorists are encouraged to drive with caution and check [DriveTexas.org](#) for the most current road conditions, visibility warnings and road closures.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS): The State Medical Operations Center remains activated.

DSHS Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (DSHS/EMTF): Four Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) packages and a Rapid Extraction Module (REM) are in Amarillo, Childress, Fort Stockton, and Lubbock due to elevated fire conditions.

American Red Cross (ARC): ARC has provided 332 households with DES to date. Individual assistance has been provided to 74 cases.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
Agrilife	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin/SOC
Agrilife	DAR Agent/CEA	2	0	Assigned	Gray County
Agrilife	DAR Agent/CEA	2	0	Assigned	Hemphill County
Agrilife	DAR Agent/CEA	2	0	Assigned	Hutchinson County
AgriLife	DAR Agent/CEA	2	0	Assigned	Roberts County
TAMFS	ST 130	17	6	Assigned	Amarillo
TAMFS	ST 131	17	6	Assigned	Amarillo
TAMFS	ST 132	13	6	Assigned	Childress
TAMFS	ST 133	13	6	Assigned	Plainview
TAMFS	ST 134	13	6	Assigned	Lubbock
TAMFS	ST 135	17	6	Assigned	Big Spring

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TAMFS	ST 136	19	6	Assigned	Alpine
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin/SOC
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin/SOC
DSHS EMTF	WLFS PKG	5	3	Assigned	Amarillo
DSHS EMTF	WLFS PKG	5	3	Assigned	Childress
DSHS EMTF	WLFS PKG	5	3	Assigned	Lubbock
DSHS EMTF	WLFS PKG/REM	9	4	Assigned	Ft. Stockton

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is 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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