



## Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

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### New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	25-0001 Wildfire Season 2025
Date	March 17, 2025
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM March 16 to 8:00 AM March 17, 2025
Report Number	13

Regions Affected	
TDEM Regions Affected	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 8
DDs Active	1, 20, 21

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** On March 16, Governor Abbott [announced](#) that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the state's request for Fire Management Assistance Grants for the Rest Area Fire in Gray County and the Crabapple Fire in Gillespie County.

On March 13, Governor Abbott [announced](#) that he directed TDEM to activate additional state emergency response resources in anticipation of extremely critical wildfire danger expected across West Texas and ongoing elevated-to-critical fire weather conditions across most of the state into the weekend.

On March 7, Governor Abbott [announced](#) that he directed TDEM to request officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) join state and local partners to conduct joint preliminary damage assessments in South Texas communities impacted by recent wildfires. These assessments will aid in determining whether Texas meets the threshold for additional federal disaster assistance.

On March 5, Governor Abbott [announced](#) that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the state's request for Fire Management Assistance Grants for the Welder Fire in San Patricio County and the Duke Fire in Bexar County.

On March 4, Governor Abbott [directed](#) the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to elevate the readiness level of the Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) as the state braced for extremely critical wildfire conditions and severe weather threats. The Governor also added 33

counties to the state's wildfire disaster declaration, which now totals 236 counties impacted by increased fire weather conditions.

### **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)

**Disaster District Emergency Operations Center (DDEOC) 1:** activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 13.

**Gray County:** [The Rest Area has burned 7,931 acres and is contained.](#)

**Roberts County:** [The Windmill fire has burned 23,147 acres and is 95% contained.](#)

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) on March 15.

DD 7 – Abilene (Includes Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton Counties)

**DDEOC 7:** Returned Level IV (Normal Conditions) on March 15.

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

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

**Newton County:** [The Newton 1305 Fire burned 1 acre and is contained.](#)

**Newton County:** [The Newton 1299 Fire burned 19 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)

**Brazoria County:** The Brazoria 1279 Fire burned 15 acres and is contained.

**Walker County:** The Walker 1281 Fire burned 9 acres and is contained.

## **Region 5 (Includes DDs 19-21)**

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

**DDEOC 20:** Activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 14.

**Duval County:** The Duval 1256 Fire burned 58 acres and is 90% contained.

**Jim Wells County:** The Alfred Fire burned 5 acres and is contained. Eight structures were threatened, with three lost. Two of the lost structures were unoccupied, while the third was a residence. No injuries were reported.

**Jim Wells County:** The Roadrunner Fire burned 6 acres and 90% contained.

**Jim Wells County:** The Mustang Lane Fire burned 1 acre and is contained. The fire threatened two structures, both of which were saved.

**Refugio County:** The Lake Pasture Fire burned 300 acres and is 95% contained.

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

**DDEOC 21:** Activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on March 14.

**Hidalgo County:** The Hargill Reservoir Fire has burned 13 acres and is 95% contained.

**Willacy County:** The Fifty Fire has burned 98 acres and is 95% contained.

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

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

**Gonzales County:** A Grass fire burned 10 acres and is contained. One home and three structures were threatened; none were lost.

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

**Bandera County:** The Saddle fire has burned 17 acres and is 100% contained.

**Gillespie County:** The Crabapple Fire has burned 9,500 acres and is 55% contained. The fire continues to threaten 50 structures and 50 homes, with one home destroyed. One injury has been reported, and a shelter has been opened at Zion Lutheran Church, 426 W. Main Street, Fredericksburg. Due to the fire's rapid growth, a mandatory evacuation has been issued, affecting seven locations.

**Kendall County:** A Wildfire has burned 100 acres and is 90% contained. One firefighter suffered a shoulder injury.

**Wilson County:** A Wildfire has burned 3 acres and is not contained.

DD 24 – Del Rio (Includes Dimmit, Edwards, La Salle, Kinney, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala Counties)

**Real County:** The Chicken Strip Fire has burned 40 acres and is 95% contained.

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

DD 23 – Killeen (Includes Bell, Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Milam, Mills, and San Saba Counties):

**San Saba County:** The Cottonwood Creek Fire burned 633 acres and is contained.

## **RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS**

**Mass Care:** TDEM partners are adapting to the evolving conditions and are ensuring community needs are met while prioritizing safety. Local agencies continue to support feeding and assess recovery efforts as it transitions to community resources to meet the needs of residents.

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):** SOC Liaisons maintain daily communication with ESF 11 partners for situational awareness and needs assessment. Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) specialists and County Extension

Deployment Team members are on standby to support any ESF 11 efforts associated with animal response or other fire weather response efforts as requested.

On March 15, DAR Leadership met to discuss agricultural needs resulting from the Crabapple Fire in Gillespie County. The Gillespie County Extension Agent was contacted to assess the need for agricultural assistance.

As of March 16, SOC Liaisons continue to remotely monitor fire weather conditions for ESF 11. Slide sets are being distributed to the State, Regional, and District Extension Administration to maintain situational awareness and prepare personnel for weather events. A State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) was submitted to AgriLife and approved for the DAR Specialist in Disaster District 18 to assist with agricultural donation management at the Crabapple Fire in Gillespie County. The DAR Specialist met with TDEM and Gillespie County officials to assess agricultural needs.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** TAMFS has firefighting resources positioned in all TDEM Regions. Air tankers, attack helicopter aircraft, single engine air tankers (SEAT), heavy equipment and engines are positioned throughout the state. TAMFS has activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in College Station. Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) strike teams are in Alice, Amarillo, Beeville, Brownwood, Burkburnett, Childress, Kerrville, Lubbock, McGregor, Merkel, Ozona, San Angelo, Silverton, Uvalde, and Waco.

For information about active and recently contained wildfires, visit the Texas A&M Forest Service Incident Viewer: <https://public.tfswildfires.com/>. For information about the Current Wildfire Situation, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/CurrentSituation>.

**Texas Military Department (TMD):** TMD is providing direct support to TAMFS with aerial fire suppression capability in response to critical fire weather. TMD has staged two Medium Mission Ready Packages (MRP) with two UH-60 helicopters in San Antonio and two in Austin, and one Heavy MRP with two CH-47 Chinook helicopters in Grand Prairie. A SOC Support Team has been assigned to Austin. TMD has activated 34 personnel and six aircraft in support of this incident. As of March 16, TMD Rotary Wing aircraft have flown a total of 52.9 hours and dropped a total of 106,880 gallons of water.

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):** TPWD has the following Statewide resources available to support: one LNO at the SOC, one helicopter in Austin, All-Terrain Vehicles, State Game Wardens, and State Park Police Officers. TPWD Aviation responded to the Onion Creek Wildfire in Hays County and successfully made 18 water bucket drops (2,070 gallons of water).

**Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR):** DIR is continuing to monitor the situation using cybersecurity tooling and threat intelligence feeds. No cyber threats related to this weather event have been identified. No requests for network or technology have been made.

**Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):**

As of March 15, no roads/highways were closed due to fire weather conditions and evacuations in two separate counties. TxDOT started sharing Extreme Wildfire messaging on Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) road signage and on social media. The wildfires, high winds, and brown-out conditions in the Panhandle, Caprock, and Plains yesterday contributed to several multi-vehicle crashes and overturned high-profile vehicles that resulted in the shutdown of several roads and highways. TxDOT crews assisted the law enforcement (LE) with road closures, evacuations, traffic control, and debris cleanup. Crews will begin conducting road inspections looking for signs of structural or roadway damage. TxDOT urges motorists to slow down and drive w/caution. Check [DriveTexas.org](http://DriveTexas.org) for the most current road conditions.

TxDOT continues to staff the SOC and are closely monitoring fire and storm threats across the state. Crews statewide stand ready to respond and assist.

**Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):** DSHS is currently monitoring the situation and ready to deploy resources and respond as the incident requires. DSHS has two LNOs assigned to the SOC.

**Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):** EMTF has recorded 3,029 encounters, with seven treated, and none transported. Multiple teams with WLFS packages were deployed or prepositioned across Texas to support wildfire response efforts. Teams responded to active fires, including the Rest Area Fire (Gray County), Saddle Fire (Bandera County), Crabapple Fire (Gillespie County), and Windmill Fire (Roberts County). Other teams were prepositioned in Alice, Brownwood, Lubbock, and Merkel to enhance wildfire response readiness. SCO and MIST are operating from the TAMFS EOC in College Station. The Area MEDL transitioned from the Rest Area Fire to the Crabapple Fire, while the SCO remains at the SOC in Austin.

**American Red Cross (ARC):** Volunteers have completed damage assessments in Sinton and have identified over 100 affected homes. North Texas teams assessed damage to over 119 homes and have provided disaster emergency supplies.

**The Salvation Army (TSA):** TSA of Beeville supported first responders and those affected by the Welder Complex fires by providing food, snacks, and water. The Beeville Service Unit is supporting those affected by the Welder Fires in Sinton by providing meals in coordination with the local Baptist Church.

### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TDEM	Mass Care	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TDEM	ISTF HQ Staff	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TDEM	VOAD	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TAMFS	Firefighting Resources	227	64	Assigned	TDEM Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
TAMFS	(15) TIFMAS ST	210	64	Assigned	TDEM Regions 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8
TAMFS	Large Air Tankers		4	Assigned	Abilene
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Assigned	Alice
TAMFS	Air Attack		1	Assigned	Amarillo
TAMFS	Scoopers		3	Assigned	Brownwood
TAMFS	Super Scoopers		2	Assigned	College Station
TAMFS	Air Attack		1	Assigned	Corpus Christi
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Assigned	Dumas
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Assigned	Fort Stockton
TAMFS	(3) SEATs, (1) Air Attack		4	Assigned	Fredericksburg
TAMFS	Type 3 Helicopter		1	Assigned	Huntsville
TAMFS	Type 3 Helicopter		1	Assigned	Lufkin
TAMFS	SEATs		3	Assigned	Mineral Wells
TAMFS	Air Attack		1	Assigned	Odessa
TAMFS	T1 Helicopter		1	Assigned	Palestine
TAMFS	Air Supervision Module		1	Assigned	San Angelo
TAMFS	Air Attack		1	Assigned	Sweetwater
TAMFS	(3) Scoopers, (1) T1 Helicopter		4	Assigned	Vernon
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	2	1	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	PIO	1	0	Assigned	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialist	1	1	Assigned	Fredericksburg
EMTF	EMTFs 7-13	48	31	Activated	Alice, Amarillo, Brownwood, Kerrville, Lubbock, Merkel, Ozona
EMTF	SCO	1	0	Activated	SOC
EMTF	MIST	1	0	Activated	TAMFS EOC
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	TxDOT District Staff	119	105	Assigned	Statewide
TMD	SOC Support Team	8	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	8	2	Assigned	San Antonio

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	8	2	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Heavy MRP	10	2	Assigned	Grand Prairie
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	TPWD Aviation	2	3	Assigned	Austin/Travis County
TPWD	TPWD Game Wardens	5	5	Assigned	Roberts/Gray Counties

**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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