



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	25-0001 Wildfire Season 2025
Date	March 20, 2025
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM March 19 to 8:00 AM March 20, 2025
Report Number	16

Regions Affected	
TDEM Regions Affected	1, 3, 4, 5
DDs Active	1, 2, 6, 7, 14, 18, 20, 21 & 24

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On March 19, Governor Greg Abbott [announced](#) that the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved his request for a disaster declaration for South Texas communities impacted by the Welder Fire and a disaster declaration for North Texas communities impacted by severe weather earlier this month. The wildfire declaration includes the following Texas counties: Aransas, Bee, Jim Wells, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, and San Patricio. The severe weather declaration includes the following Texas counties: Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Kaufman, Rockwall, and Tarrant.

On March 19, Governor Abbott [announced](#) that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the state's request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant for the Double S Fire in Hutchinson County. The approval of this Fire Management Assistance Grant makes Texas eligible for a 75 percent reimbursement from the federal government for costs associated with fighting the Double S Fire. Fire Management Assistance Grants are available to states and local jurisdictions for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction and would constitute a major disaster.

On March 18, Governor Abbott announced that he [requested](#) a disaster declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for South Texas communities impacted by the Welder Fire earlier this month. If approved, the SBA declaration will make federal assistance available and provide low-interest loans through its disaster programs to qualifying Texans whose homes and businesses sustained damage during the Welder Fire in San Patricio County and its contiguous counties.

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: [Decreased to Level III \(Increased Response Conditions\) on March 19.](#)

Dallam County: [The High Lonesome Fire burned 23,335 acres and is contained.](#)

Hutchinson County: [The Double S Fire has burned 500 acres and 75% contained.](#)

Roberts County: The Windmill Fire has burned 23,297 acres and is [99% contained.](#)

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

DDEOC 2: [Increased to Level III \(Increased Response Conditions\) on March 19.](#)

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: Level IV (Normal Conditions)

Stonewall County: [The Devils Canyon \(Old Glory Fire\) has burned 215 acres and is 95% contained.](#)

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: [Gregg 1564 Fire has burned 2.8 acres and is 60% contained.](#)

Marion County: [3001 Fire has burned 500 acres and is 90% 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)

Harris County: [A Grass Fire burned 26 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)

Duval County: The Magnum Fire burned 150 acres and is 50% contained. The Duval 1573 Fire burned 5 acres and is not contained

Jim Wells County: The Roadrunner Fire has burned six acres and contained.

Refugio County: The Melon Creek Fire has burned 100 acres and 95% contained.

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

DDEOC 21: Activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions)

Hidalgo County: The El Monte Fire has burned 9.6 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)

Goliad County: The Sarco Fire has burned 200 acres and 60% contained.

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

Gillespie County: The Crabapple Fire has burned 9,858 acres and is 95% contained. Nine residences have been destroyed and two residences sustained damage. Additionally, 20 outbuildings have been destroyed, and four outbuildings have been damaged.

Medina County: The Valley Oak Fire burned 5.5 acres and 75% contained. The Medina 1540 Fire has burned 10 acres and is uncontained.

Wilson County: Three Oaks II Brushfire has burned 15 acres and 50% 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 22 acres and is 95% contained.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University:

Communication Coordination Group: An AT&T FIRSTNET Satellite Cellular on Light Truck (SATCOLT) was deployed to Fredericksburg to support the Crabapple Fire and cellular providers in the impacted area have tuned their systems to support increased cellular activity in the Gillespie County area.

Mass Care: On March 19, three shelters were established with a population of 73 people. The Regional Disaster Finance Coordinator continues to work with local jurisdictions on cost tracking and providing guidance for disaster finance documentation. A mobile feeding site at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds has served 450 meals.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife): The Animal Response Team has released five personnel and will continue to distribute hay until a local County Extension Agent can take over. On March 18, The Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Unit Animal Response Team are onsite at the Gillespie County Fairgrounds to assist with livestock sheltering and donations management. AgriLife SOC Liaisons continue to monitor fire weather conditions. On March 17, AgriLife coordinated with the Texas Department of Agriculture to procure a supply of hay to landowners who are in burned areas.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS): Texas A&M Forest Service, firefighting aircraft, and TIFMAS resources are currently assisting local responders with 18 fires totaling 34,767.6 acres. The largest fire is the Windmill Fire in Roberts and Ochiltree Counties, with 23,287 acres burned.

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 the 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 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 19, TMD Rotary Wing

aircraft have flown a total of 107.3 hours and dropped a total of 309,381 gallons of water.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD): Texas Game Wardens responded to the Double S Fire on the west side of Borger, in Hutchinson County, and assisted with the mandatory evacuation. TWPD Game Wardens assisted with traffic control on Interstate Highway (I) 27 south of Canyon due to hazardous conditions. 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 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 event have been identified. No requests for network or technology have been made.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT): As of March 19, Farm-to-Market (FM) 829 in Dawson County is closed from United States Highway (US)180 to State Highway (SH) 349 due to sand drifts. A section of SH 136 in Hutchinson County is closed approximately half a mile west of FM 1559 to three quarters of a mile east of FM 1559 due to smoke from the Double S fire. A section of State Loop 335 in Randall County is closed from Interstate Highway (IH) 40 to Hillside due to low visibility from blowing dirt. TxDOT continues to share TAMFS and Extreme Wildfire Danger messaging today on DMS road signage and on social media.

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 responded to active fires, including the Crabapple Fire and Double S Fire. Additional teams were repositioned in Lubbock, Brownwood, Alice, and Merkel to enhance wildfire response. Multiple teams with Wild Land Fire Support (WLFS) packages were deployed or prepositioned across Texas to support wildfire response efforts. SCO and MIST are operating from the TAMFS EOC in College Station. The Area MEDL deployed to the Crabapple Fire, while the SCO remains at the SOC in Austin.

American Red Cross (ARC): On March 19, three shelters were established with a population of 73 people. Volunteers have completed damage assessments in Sinton and have identified over 100 affected homes.

The Salvation Army (TSA): TSA of Beeville supported 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	3	0	Assigned	Austin
TDEM	VOAD	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TAMFS	Firefighting Resources (Field and C/G)	298	77	Assigned	TDEM Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
TAMFS	(15) TIFMAS ST	210	63	Assigned	TDEM Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
TAMFS	Aircraft		46	Assigned	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	2	1	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	PIO	1	0	Assigned	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialist	1	1	Assigned	Fredericksburg
AgriLife	Animal Response & Sheltering Team	9	12	Assigned	Fredericksburg
AgriLife	DAR Specialist for IMT	2	2	Assigned	Willow City
EMTF	EMTF Wildfire Pkg 7-13	45	29	Activated	Crabapple, Double S, Alice, Brownwood, Lubbock, Merkel
EMTF	SCO	1	0	Activated	SOC
EMTF	SCO	1	0	Activated	College Station
EMTF	MIST	1	0	Activated	College Station
EMTF	MEDL	1	0	Activated	Roving
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	SOC Support Team	7	0	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	8	2	Assigned	Fredericksburg
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	8	2	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Heavy MRP	8	2	Assigned	Grand Prairie
TPWD	SOC Liaison	8		Assigned	Austin

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TPWD	TPWD Aviation	2	3	Assigned	Austin/Travis County
TPWD	Game Wardens	2	2	Assigned	Hutchinson County
TPWD	Game Wardens	2	2	Assigned	Randall County

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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