



## 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 24, 2025                             |
| Time               | 10:00 AM                                   |
| Operational Period | 8:00 AM March 23 to 8:00 AM March 24, 2025 |
| Report Number      | 20   |

| Regions Affected      |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| TDEM Regions Affected | 3  |
| DDs Active            | 20 |

**STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION:** On March 20, Governor Abbott [announced](#) that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the state's request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant for the Pauline Road Fire in San Jacinto and Montgomery Counties. 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 Pauline Road 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 19, Governor 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. The SBA 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 North Texas communities following the severe storms and tornadoes that occurred earlier this month, as well as South Texas communities affected by the Welder Fire.

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 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)

**Marion County:** The 3001 Fire has burned 524 acres and is [100% contained](#). [Three homes were threatened and saved](#).

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

**Polk County:** The Pace Creek Fire burned 5 acres and is not contained.

**San Jacinto County:** The Pauline Road Fire has burned 2,421 acres and is [95% contained](#). Nine hundred homes are threatened by fire.

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

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

**DDEOC 19:** [Returned to Level IV \(Normal Conditions\)](#)

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)

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

**DDEOC 21:** [Returned to Level IV \(Normal Conditions\)](#)

## **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:** The Regional Disaster Finance Coordinator continues to work with local jurisdictions on cost tracking and providing guidance for disaster finance documentation.

**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):** AgriLife SOC Liaisons continued to monitor fire weather conditions for ESF 11. The Gillespie County Extension office is handling the intake and distribution of donations at the Crabapple Fire Animal Supply Point. DAR and County Extension staff are in San Jacinto County monitoring animal needs at the Pauline Road Fire. The overnight shelter population in San Jacinto County at the Bull Salis shelter was 14 goats, 2 horses, and 5 head of cattle. The population for the second shelter at Caney Creek Cowboy Church is 15 head of cattle, 6 horses, 2 donkeys, and 1 chicken. AgriLife Extension will continue to monitor livestock sheltering needs with county officials at the Pauline Road fire in San Jacinto County.

**Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):** The Texas A&M Forest Service is closely monitoring fire weather conditions, with wildland firefighting resources, including heavy equipment, fire engines, and personnel, in all TDEM Regions. [Nine \(9\) TIFMAS strike teams](#) are pre-positioned in all TDEM Regions with EMTF support. [Forty-seven firefighting aircraft \(47\)](#) are available at 20 locations across the state, including (6) Air Attacks, (1) Aerial Supervision Module, (15) Single-Engine Air Tankers, [\(6\) Large Airtankers \(LATs\)](#), (6) Single Engine Scoopers, (10) Type 1 Helicopters (6 of these are TMD) and (2) Type 3 Helicopters. TAMFS is supporting the State Operations Center with daily staffing. Texas A&M Forest Service, firefighting aircraft, and TIFMAS resources are currently assisting local responders with [1 fire totaling 2,421 acres](#). The fire is the Pauline Road fire in San Jacinto and Montgomery Counties, with 2,421 acres burned.

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 Lufkin, 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 23, TMD Rotary Wing aircraft have flown a total of 123.9 hours and dropped a total of 627 buckets for a total of 352,693 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 is ready to deploy resources and respond as the incident requires. DSHS has two LNOs assigned to the SOC.

**Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):** Multiple teams with Wild Land Fire Support (WLFS) packages were deployed or prepositioned across Texas to support wildfire response efforts. [WLFS Teams have made 4,780 encounters, treated 12 individuals, and had 2 transports.](#)

#### **Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD):**

**American Red Cross (ARC):** Shelter and feeding teams remain on standby, ready to respond statewide if needed. On March 21, two shelters in San Jacinto County and Montgomery County closed.

**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.

**Texans on Mission (TXM):** TXM is providing shower and laundry services to emergency responders for the Crabapple Fire in Fredericksburg. The team arrived on March 18 and is staying at the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Building in Willow City. To date, TXM has provided 132 work hours, 5 showers, and 24 laundry loads.

### STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

| Agency   | Resource Kind and Type                 | Personnel | Equip | Status    | Location   |
|----------|--|-----------|-------|-----------|--|
| TDEM     | Mass Care                              | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin   |
| TDEM     | ISTF HQ Staff                          | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin   |
| TDEM     | VOAD                                   | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Remote   |
| TAMFS    | SOC Liaison                            | 1         | 1     | Assigned  | Austin   |
| TAMFS    | Firefighting Resources (Field and C/G) | 284       | 73    | Assigned  | TDEM Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  |
| TAMFS    | 9 TIFMAS ST                            | 208       | 63    | Assigned  | TDEM Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  |
| TAMFS    | Aircraft                               |           | 47    | Assigned  | TDEM Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8  |
| AgriLife | SOC Liaison                            | 2         | 1     | Assigned  | Austin   |
| AgriLife | 1 DAR Specialist for IMT               | 1         | 1     | Assigned  | Merkel   |
| AgriLife | PIO                                    | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | College Station  |
| AgriLife | DAR Specialist                         | 1         | 1     | Assigned  | Fredericksburg   |
| AgriLife | Animal Response & Sheltering Team      | 4         | 6     | Released  | Fredericksburg   |
| AgriLife | 2 DAR Specialist for IMT               | 2         | 2     | Assigned  | College Station  |
| AgriLife | 1 Area Chief, 1 DAR Specialist, 1 CEA  | 3         | 3     | Assigned  | San Jacinto  |
| DSHS     | SCO LNO                                | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin   |
| EMTF     | EMTF Wildfire Pkg 7-13                 | 46        | 30    | Activated | Team 7: Childress IA<br>Team 8: Marble Falls IA<br>Team 9: Merkel IA<br>Team 10: Alice IA<br>Team 11: Kerrville IA<br>Team 12: Amarillo IA<br>Team 13: Pauline Road Fire |
| 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 | Merkel   |
| TxDOT    | EMC                                    | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin   |
| TxDOT    | SOC Liaison                            | 1         | 0     | Assigned  | Austin   |

| Agency | Resource Kind and Type | Personnel | Equip | Status   | Location             |
|--------|------------------------|-----------|-------|----------|----------------------|
| TMD    | SOC Support Team       | 7         | 0     | Assigned | Austin               |
| TMD    | Rotary Wing Medium MRP | 8         | 2     | Assigned | Lufkin               |
| TMD    | Rotary Wing Medium MRP | 8         | 2     | Assigned | Austin               |
| TMD    | Rotary Wing Heavy MRP  | 10        | 2     | Assigned | Grand Prairie        |
| TPWD   | SOC Liaison            | 8         |       | Assigned | Austin               |
| 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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