



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

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	February 18, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM February 17, 2026, to 8:00 AM February 18, 2026
Report Number	1

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2
DDs Active	1, 2, 3

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On February 17, Governor Greg Abbott directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to increase the readiness level of the Texas State Emergency Operations Center (SOC) to Level II (Escalated Response) ahead of critical wildfire danger anticipated across portions of the western half of Texas.

On February 15, Gov. Abbott announced that he directed TDEM to activate additional state wildfire response resources in anticipation of elevated-to-critical fire weather conditions in large areas of South, West, and Northwest Texas.

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 II (Escalated Response Conditions) on February 18.

Armstrong County: The 8 Ball Fire has burned 9,000 acres and is 25% contained.

Lipscomb County: The Haystack Fire burned 106 acres and is contained.

Oldham County: The Lavender Fire has burned 8,500 acres and is 10% contained.

Hartley County: The Korn Fire burned 275 acres and is contained.

DD 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties): [DDEOC 2](#) activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 17.

Hale County: The Arbor Fire burned 127 acres and is contained.

Region 2 (Includes DDs 3, 4, and 22)

DD 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties): [DDEOC 3](#) activated to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) on February 17.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas A&M University System (TDEM):

Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

CCG partners continue to respond to issues resulting from the wildfire weather impacting portions of Texas. T-Mobile is tracking Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS); additionally, they have topped off generators and are deploying additional portable generators. Verizon's Network Team is monitoring to ensure sites with generators come online. AT&T FirstNet has one tower offline in Amarillo; however, the area is supported by overlapping coverage and service has not been significantly impacted.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reports all DPS owned resources in the

Panhandle have sufficient backup power & fuel for 4-5 days. DPS currently has no known power outages at their Panhandle sites.

The Texas Association of Broadcasters (TAB) reports that the KAMR (NBC) TV Station in Amarillo is on the air with low power transmitters running on generator power. In Hereford, KPAN-AM/FM is on the air and has backup generators at both the transmitter and studio. If they lose power, they will update via social media until transmission is restored.

Optimum Communications reports four broadband sites in the Panhandle have backup power and can remain operational during extended power outages. Two other sites are having backup generators installed.

Incident Support Task Force (ISTF):

Mass Care:

Monitoring continues for potential Mass Care activities over the coming operational periods. Situational awareness remains focused on a power outage impacting TDEM Region 1. At this time, no requests for Mass Care services or coordination have been received. Partner agencies remain on standby and are prepared to support as community needs are identified and requests for assistance are made.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service Public Works Response Team (TX/PWRT):

PWRT continues to support and coordinate operations from the SOC, monitoring requests for service.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

Disaster Assessment and Recovery agents and County Extension Strike Team members are on standby to support any ESF11 efforts associated with animal response or other winter weather response efforts as requested.

As of February 17, 26 Disaster Assessment and Recovery Specialists and four Area Chiefs are on standby to support ESF 11 wildfire response efforts. AgriLife DDEOC representatives are monitoring DDEOC activations in affected regions virtually and are attending daily briefings for situational awareness.

Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS):

TAMFS has pre-positioned heavy equipment, engines, and aircraft across regions impacted by elevated fire weather conditions. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated, and Texas Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (TLETS)

messaging is underway. In addition, a targeted public awareness campaign is being conducted in the Panhandle region, including billboard messaging and coordinated outreach through local and regional news media.

In total, TAMFS has 618 personnel committed to the event.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

The Texas Department of Public Safety personnel in Lubbock and Amarillo Districts are actively monitoring weather and traffic conditions, with particular attention to high-profile vehicles that may be affected by high winds. Additionally, DPS Amarillo and DPS Lubbock are providing staffing support at their perspective of DDEOCs. The Texas Highway Patrol Chief's Office is also providing staffing support at the SOC.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD is supporting Texas A&M Forest Service in suppressing wildland fires in Texas. TMD has activated 33 personnel and three aircraft in support of 26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

Texas Game Wardens have identified resources ready to support as needed in response to the increased Wildfire Threat affecting the State of Texas. Game Warden personnel are continuously being advised of the current wildfire conditions and are maintaining a state of readiness. TPWD Game Wardens are working closely with TDEM and other partners through the SOC to ensure resources are available should they be needed. TPWD is staffing the SOC and all activated DDEOCs.

Texas Game Wardens responded to multiple wildfires in TDEM Region 1 and supported local Law Enforcement with traffic control. Also, Game Wardens are assisting with resident evacuations in the towns of Howardwick and Spade.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

As of February 17, there were no state-maintained road closures. TxDOT updated Digital Messaging Signs (DMS) messaging to alert of elevated wildfire risks in identified areas. TxDOT Emergency Management staff are supporting the SOC onsite during this activation. TxDOT Amarillo and Lubbock Districts began manning their respective TDEM DDEOCs on February 17. TxDOT crews statewide are patrolling and monitoring road conditions.

Stay up to date with the latest road conditions on drivetexas.org.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

DSHS provided an Emergency Medical Taskforce (EMTF) State Coordination Officer (SCO), and a DSHS Liaison Officer (LNO) for this event. The DSHS State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) is at limited activation and supporting the response.

Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):

Four Wildfire Support (WLFS) Packages are activated and prepositioned in Alice, Amarillo, Hutchinson, Lubbock, and Merkel for increased Fire Weather conditions across the State.

Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):

HHSC is actively monitoring the situation. HHSC began staffing the SOC in support of severe weather on February 17th. HHSC staff will remain in the SOC for the duration of the incident.

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR):

Texas Department of Information Resources (DIR) is monitoring the situation using cybersecurity tooling and threat intelligence feeds. No cyber threats related to this weather event have been identified.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC):

The American Red Cross North Texas Region is at increased readiness for potential wildfires in the Texas Panhandle as extremely dry conditions and high winds are forecasted; to enable a rapid response, the Mass Care Team and shelter teams in the Panhandle and Big Country have been placed on alert, water, snacks, and blankets are pre-staged at the local office and in chapter vehicles, regional leadership has been notified of the heightened risk, and local Offices of Emergency Management (OEM) have been contacted to coordinate needs and ensure immediate communication if activation is required.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
ESF-6 Mass Care	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
ISTF HQ	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
Staff					
VOAD	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TAMFS	Motor Graders/ Dozers	237	50	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Engines	0	2	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	USFS	37	3	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Aircraft	0	32	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST)	233	48	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	All Hazard STs	87	28	Assigned	Various
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	Austin
AgriLife	AgriLife Administration	2	2	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	Marketing and Communications	1	0	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/Area Chiefs	30	15	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	23	0	Activated	Statewide
PWRT	ESF 3 SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
DIR	SOC Liaison	2	0	Assigned	Austin
DPS	THP Supervisor	1	1	Assigned	Amarillo DDEOC
DPS	THP Supervisor	1	1	Assigned	Lubbock DDEOC
DPS	SOC Support	2	2	Assigned	SOC
DPS	THP Troopers	71	71	Available	Amarillo
DPS	THP Troopers	10	10	Available	Lubbock
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SCO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	MIST	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SCO	1	0	Assigned	TFS EOC
DSHS	MIST	1	0	Assigned	TFC EOC
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Assigned	Lubbock-Lubbock County
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Assigned	Amarillo- Randall/Potter

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
					County
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Assigned	Alice-Jim Wells County
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Assigned	Merkel-Taylor County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Lubbock-Lubbock County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	21	10	Assigned	Amarillo-Randall/Potter County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Abilene-Taylor County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Borger-Hutchinson County
DSHS	SMOC	5	0	Assigned	Austin
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TEA	SOC LNO	3	0	Activated	SOC
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP (2)	12	2	Assigned	Austin/San Antonio
TMD	Rotary Wing Heavy MRP (1)	12	1	Assigned	Grand Prairie
TMD	SOC Support Team	9	0	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	SOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	Austin
TPWD	TPWD Aviation	2	3	Available	Austin
TPWD	TPWD Game Wardens	20	20	Available	TDEM Region 1
TPWD	DDEOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	DDEOC Amarillo and Lubbock
TxDOT	EMC	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	DDEOC Liaisons	4	2	Assigned	Amarillo and Lubbock

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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