



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	February 20, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM February 19, 2026, to 8:00 AM February 20, 2026
Report Number	3

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

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On February 19, Governor Greg Abbott announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved a request from the State of Texas for a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) for the 8 Ball Fire that started in Armstrong County and entered Donley County, which has threatened homes and infrastructure in the Panhandle area and has prompted local evacuations.

On February 17, Gov. 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 and Donley Counties: The 8 Ball Fire has burned [13,500 acres](#) and is [70% contained](#).

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

Hutchinson County: The Canadian Bridge Fire has burned [428 acres](#) and is [contained](#).

Jones County: The Landfill Fire burned [87 acres](#) and is [contained](#).

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

Oldham County: The Lavender Fire has burned [18,423 acres](#) and is [40% 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.

Clay County: The Spot Line Fire has burned [34 acres](#) and is [90% contained](#).

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

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

Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

Cellular providers continue to monitor tower sites and top off backup generators. Backup cellular platforms are on standby to deploy, as needed.

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reports all DPS owned resources in the Panhandle have sufficient backup power and 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.

On February 18, Potter County used the FEMA Integrated Public Alert & Warning System (IPAWS) system to issue an Evacuation Warning for residents located Northwest of Amarillo. In addition to the Evacuation Warning, the alert provided information on the shelter supporting the evacuation operation. The FEMA IPAWS / PBS site, PBS WARN, was used to monitor IPAWS Alerts that were issued by neighboring states where there was a potential for a threat to cross state borders and enter Texas. The Alerts were shared with impacted TDEM Regions and State partners.

Incident Support Task Force (ISTF):

Mass Care:

Monitoring continues for potential Mass Care activities over the coming operational periods. 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.

Education:

TDEM maintains communications with public university systems, who confirmed they are monitoring the weather and have no disruptions to their normal operations and no unmet needs.

Groom ISD, located in TDEM Region 1 (DC 1), is closed due to no electricity.

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 efforts associated with animal response or other winter weather response efforts as requested.

As of [February 19](#), 24 Disaster Assessment and Recovery Specialists and three Area Chiefs are on standby to support wildfire response efforts. AgriLife DDEOC representatives are monitoring DDEOC activations in affected regions virtually and are attending daily briefings for situational awareness. AgriLife has one representative in person at DDEOC 1.

[The Potter County Extension Agent continues to survey damage and livestock needs with local officials. On February 19, an Animal Evacuation and Response Team was deployed to assist in the evacuation of livestock near the Lavender Fire, Potter County. Animals will be transported to the Wildorado Livestock Auction for sheltering.](#)

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 681 personnel committed to the event.

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS):

DPS 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. THP Troopers in the Panhandle are monitoring weather conditions and are ready to assist when requested. They are working their regular duty hours.

On February 18, THP personnel from the Amarillo District assisted with evacuations of citizens from an area in Potter County. Troopers responded to a fire near US-84 in Hartley County, 10 miles SW of Dalhart. Troopers assisted TxDOT with closing US-87 from FM-1719 in Potter County and FM-1913 SB in Moore County until visibility allows for safe traffic flow.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD is supporting TAMFS in suppressing wildland fires in Texas. TMD has activated [30](#) 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. 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 activated DDEOCs in Lubbock and Amarillo.

Texas Game Wardens have responded to multiple wildfires in TDEM Region 1 and supported local Law Enforcement with evacuations for the 8-Ball, Lavender, and Spade wildfire, along with supporting traffic control. In total, TPWD has assisted 100 people to evacuate.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

[As of February 19, there were no state-maintained road closures or impacted roadways. TxDOT crews closed the right lanes of US-87 north of Amarillo to allow for firefighting access at the request of and in coordination with state partners.](#) 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.

TxDOT Amarillo District received a request from TAMFS for fuel and is providing fuel

support for firefighters responding to the Lavender fire. TxDOT crews in the Panhandle provided traffic control for several wildfires this week.

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. The Panhandle Regional Medical Operations Center has activated in support of this incident.

EMTF has activated Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) assets for Statewide response. All WLFS Packages have been extended to March 6.

Texas Emergency Medical Task Force (EMTF):

Four Wildland Fire 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 17. 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.

Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA):

As of February 18, 2026, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has declared an agriculture emergency for the panhandle and West Texas. The State of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) Fund has been activated to support farmers and ranchers affected by wildfires. TDA has 1 person manning the SOC and standing by to assist when needed.

Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)

American Red Cross (ARC):

The American Red Cross is opening shelters where needed, identifying potential shelter sites in heightened risk areas, and rostering volunteers to respond to needs arising from the Fire Weather threats.

One shelter is open in Potter County with [zero clients and 12 pets](#). One Temporary Evacuation Point was established in Donley County with [zero clients and zero pets](#).

[On February 19, ARC served 390 meals to first responders in Donley and Potter counties.](#)

Salvation Army:

[The Amarillo Rapid Response Unit \(RRU\) fed evacuees and first responders in Donley County. In total, 89 meals and 120 bottled waters were provided.](#)

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
ESF-6 Mass Care	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
ISTF HQ Staff	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC
VOAD	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
ESF-18 Education	Liaison	1	0	Activated	SOC
TAMFS	Motor Graders/ Dozers	257	80	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Engines	0	2	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	USFS	39	4	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Aircraft	0	33 (3-TMD)	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	TIFMAS Strike Teams (ST)	298	78	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/	3	1	Assigned	Statewide

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
	Area Chiefs				
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	27	14	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	1	1	Assigned	Statewide
AgriLife	DDEOC Representatives	22	0	Activated	Statewide
AgriLife	Animal Evac Response Team	5	5	Assigned	Amarillo
PWRT	ESF 3 SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	Austin
DIR	SOC Liaison	1	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	42	71	Available	Amarillo
DPS	THP Troopers	10	10	Available	Lubbock
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	0	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SCO	1	1	Assigned	SOC
DSHS	SCO	1	0	Assigned	TFS EOC
DSHS	MIST	1	0	Assigned	TFC EOC
DSHS	[2] WLF PKG	12	8	Assigned	Lubbock-Lubbock County
DSHS	[2] WLF PKG	12	8	Assigned	Amarillo- Randall/Potter County
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Assigned	Alice-Jim Wells County
DSHS	Area MEDL	2	1	Assigned	Amarillo- Randall/Potter County
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Assigned	Aspermont- Stonewall County
DSHS	[1] WLF PKG	6	4	Activated	Ozona-Crockett County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Lubbock-Lubbock County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	21	10	Assigned	Amarillo-

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
					Randall/Potter County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Borger-Hutchinson County
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Assigned	Snyder-Scurry County
DSHS	SMOC	5	0	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	Panhandle RMOC	4	0	Assigned	Lubbock
DSHS	[1] SWX PKG	22	11	Released	Abilene-Taylor County
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TEA	SOC LNO	3	0	Activated	SOC
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	6	1	Assigned	Oldham County (Lavender Fire)
TMD	Rotary Wing Medium MRP	6	1	Assigned	Austin
TMD	Rotary Wing Heavy MRP	9	1	Assigned	Oldham County (Lavender Fire)
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
TPWD	TPWD UAS	1	2	Assigned	TDEM Region 1
TxDOT	EMC	1	1	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	2	1	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District support of DDEOCs	49	25	Assigned	Amarillo, Childress, 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>

W. Nim Kidd, MPA, CEM

Chief – Texas Division of Emergency Management
Vice Chancellor for Disaster and Emergency Services
Texas A&M University System

<https://tdem.texas.gov/>

Twitter: [@TDEM](#)

(512) 424-2208 (24/7)