



Texas Division of Emergency Management State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026
Date	May 17, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM May 16, 2026, to 8:00 AM May 17, 2026
Report Number	89

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8
DDs Active	1, 2

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: On May 8, Governor Greg Abbott issued a disaster proclamation related to fire weather conditions that began on August 10, 2025, as amended and renewed in subsequent proclamations, certifying that increased fire weather conditions pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property.

On March 18, Gov. 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 Corner Pocket Fire in Donley County, which threatened and damaged homes and infrastructure in the Texas Panhandle and forced local evacuations.

On February 19, Gov. 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). [DDEOC 01 has activated to Level II \(Escalated Response\) on May 15.](#)

Carson County: The McBride Fire burned 2,192 acres and is contained.

Briscoe County: The Cherokee Fire burned 3,222 acres and is contained.

Childress County: The Baylor Creek Fire burned 195 acres and is contained.

Haskell County: [The Mustache Fire has burned 529 acres and is contained.](#)

Hartley County: [The Roman Fire burned 6,294 acres and is contained.](#)

Hall County: [The Ox Bow Fire has burned 1,015 acres and is 100% contained.](#) [The Chainey Mountain Fire has burned 1,200 acres and is contained.](#)

Motley County: The Crooked Cook Fire has burned 1,388 acres and is contained. [The Comanche Fire has burned 1,800 acres and is 70% contained.](#)

Oldham County: [The Line Fire has burned 10,913 acres and is contained.](#)

Potter County: The Shifty Fire has burned 5,277 acres and is contained.

Randall County: The Hunggate Fire has burned 34,005 acres and is 60% contained. The Chocolate Chip Fire was merged into the Hunggate Fire. The Western Fire has burned 1,137 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) **activated to Level III (Increased Readiness) on May 15.**

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

DD 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties)

Bowie County: The Bowie 4050 Fire burned 2 acres and is contained.

DD 6 – Tyler (Includes Anderson, Camp, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Henderson, Marion, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood Counties)

Cherokee County: The Cherokee 4152 burned 5.10 acres and is contained.

Panola County: The Panola 4154 burned 4 acres and is contained.

Rusk County: The Rusk 4088 Fire burned 1.87 acres and is contained.

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

Houston County: The Houston 4105 Fire burned 30 acres and is 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.

Mass Care:

Mass Care continues to monitor potential activities and provide sporadic feeding support.

Education:

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

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

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

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife):

On February 22, AgriLife conducted fencing damage assessments and monitoring needs with local landowners in affected counties. On February 23, the Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Animal Evacuation and Response Team demobilized and returned to headquarters.

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. A targeted public awareness campaign is being conducted in the Panhandle region to include billboard messaging and outreach through local and regional news media. In total, TAMFS has [221](#) personnel committed to this event.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD has activated one Rotary Wing Medium (RWM) Mission Ready Package (MRP) consisting of two UH-60s, to provide direct aerial fire support to TAMFS. TMD has activated 12 personnel for this event.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD):

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 traffic control. In total, TPWD has assisted 100 people in evacuation.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

TxDOT has an Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) and a State Operations Center (SOC) Liaison Officer (LNO) supporting in Austin. TxDOT continues to coordinate with Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS) for Dynamic Message Sign (DMS) wildfire messaging. On May 15, temporary closures occurred in Randall County on Interstate Highway (IH) 27 and United States Highway (US) 87, as well as in Hall County on State Highway (SH) 70 and Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 657. As of May 16th at 10:00AM, there were no state-maintained road closures due to wildfires. Up to date road conditions are available on drivetexas.org.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

On May 16, assets were demobilized from this incident and moved to the Hunggate Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) incident. The State Medical Operations Center (SMOC) moved from Increased Readiness Level to Limited Activation Level.

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):

The State of Texas Agriculture Relief (STAR) Fund has been activated to support farmers and ranchers affected by wildfires. Ranchers needing hay or feed can use TDA’s Hay Hotline at (877) 429-1998. Mental health support is available 24/7 through the AgriStress Helpline by trained professionals familiar with rural challenges at (833) 897-2474.

Salvation Army:

The Amarillo Rapid Response Unit (RRU) has 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 (Remote)
ISTF HQ Staff	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
VOAD	Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
ESF-18 Education	Liaison	1	0	Activated	SOC (Remote)
TAMFS	Overhead	22	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Operations	6	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Incident Support	6	0	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Out of State Support	4	35	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Field Operations	48	24	Assigned	Various
TAMFS	Aviation	21	17	Assigned	Various
TIFMAS	Strike Team	114	41	Assigned	Various
AgriLife	SOC Liaison	1	1	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
AgriLife	DAR Recovery Coordinator	1	1	Assigned	Victoria
AgriLife	Administration	2	2	Activated	College Station
AgriLife	DAR Specialists/ Area Chiefs	3	3	Assigned	Statewide
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TEA	SOC LNO	1	0	Activated	SOC (Remote)
TMD	UH-60 SHINR-03	4	1	Assigned	Amarillo
TMD	UH-60 ALAMO-02	7	1	Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	SOC Support MRP	1	0	Assigned	SOC
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Available	SOC (Remote)
TPWD	Aviation	2	3	Available	Austin
TPWD	Game Wardens	20	20	Available	TDEM Region 1
TPWD	DDEOC Liaison	2	2	Assigned	DDEOC Amarillo and Lubbock
TPWD	UAS	2	4	Assigned	TDEM Region 1
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District Support	10	9	Assigned	Amarillo District
TxDOT	Local District Support	5	4	Assigned	Childress District
DSHS	WLFS Package Team 14	6	4	Assigned	Potter County

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
DSHS	All Hazards Team Alpha	23	12	Activated	Randall County
DSHS	All Hazards Team Bravo	23	12	Activated	Randall County
DSHS	WLFS Package Team 16	6	4	Assigned	Randall County
DSHS	WLFS Package Team 17	6	4	Activated	Randall County
DSHS	WLFS Package Team 18	6	4	Activated	Randall County
DSHS	REM Team 17	4	2	Assigned	Lubbock County

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is at Level III (Increased Readiness 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)