Texas Division of Emergency Management

State Situation Report

New Information is in Blue Text

Event Name	**26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026**
Date	September 22, 2026
Time	10:00 AM
Operational Period	8:00 AM September 21, 2026, to 8:00 AM September 22, 2026
Report Number	196

TDEM Regions Affected	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
DDs Active	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11

STATEWIDE CURRENT SITUATION: High wildfire danger continues across large portions of Texas. The state has experienced new wildfire starts on a daily basis over the past several days. Multiple wildfires remain active across the state and state emergency response resources remain engaged in support of local officials.

On September 16, Governor 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 Hydra Fire in Bosque County, which has threatened homes and infrastructure and prompted local evacuations.

On September 3, Gov. Abbott surveyed damages from the Ross Fire that impacted Palo Pinto and Jack counties, served meals to first responders, and provided an update on the state's ongoing wildfire response.

On September 2, Gov. Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On August 25, Gov. Abbott announced that FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an FMAG for the Ross Fire in Palo Pinto and Jack Counties. State and local response personnel are actively engaged in suppression, containment, and public safety operations.

The Texas State Emergency Operations Center remains activated at Level II (Escalated Response) status in support of 26-0001 Wildfire Season 2026.

On August 4, Gov. Abbott announced that he directed the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to activate additional state wildfire response resources in anticipation of increased fire weather conditions in areas of the Texas Panhandle.

On August 3, Gov. Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS), August is typically the peak month for wildfires due to hot, dry conditions. Across large regions of Texas, wildfire potential is expected to increase due to dry vegetation, with a heightened concern over the next several days in the Panhandle and North Texas areas.

On July 4, Gov. Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On June 7, Gov. Abbott amended and renewed the disaster proclamation related to fire weather.

On May 21, Gov. Abbott announced that he directed TDEM to request officials from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) join state and local partners in conducting preliminary damage assessments in Panhandle communities affected by recent wildfire activity. These assessments will help determine if the state meets the thresholds for additional federal disaster assistance.

On May 19, Gov. Abbott announced that the FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for a FMAG for the Stinky Fire in Potter County, which has threatened homes, damaged property, impacted infrastructure, and prompted local evacuations in the Texas Panhandle.

On May 16, Gov. Abbott announced that FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an FMAG for the Hunggate Fire in Randall County, which has threatened and damaged homes and infrastructure in the Texas Panhandle and forced local evacuations.

On May 8, Gov. 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 FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an 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 FEMA has approved a request from the State of Texas for an 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 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:

- Protect life and property.
- Support rapid & effective response.
- Collect and disseminate accurate incident information to improve decision-making.
- Accurately track incident costs associated with assigned resources for cost recovery.

Region 1 (Includes Disaster District (DD) 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 1 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

DD 2 – Lubbock (Includes Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum Counties): DDEOC 2 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

DD 7 – Abilene (Includes Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Comanche, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Throckmorton, and Taylor Counties): DDEOC 7 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Brown County: Cedar Fire has burned 14 acres and is 90 percent contained.

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

DD 3 – Wichita Falls (Includes Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties): DDEOC 3 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

DD 4 – Dallas/Ft. Worth (Includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise Counties): DDEOC 4 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

DD 22 – Sherman (Includes Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties)

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

As of September 10, Region 3 has been experiencing a gradual increase in fire behavior, with moderate-extreme fire behavior presenting daily across all four Districts. TAMFS has positioned additonal wildifre resources in Region 3.

DD 5 – Mt. Pleasant (Includes Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus Counties): DDEOC 5 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Cass County: Cass 8822 Fire burned 0.5 acres and is contained.

Red River County:

- Red River 8845 Fire burned 5.73 acres and is contained.
- Red River 8855 Fire burned 0.25 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): DDEOC 6 maintains Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Anderson County: Anderson 8828 Fire burned three acres and is contained.

Marion County: Marion 8840 Fire burned one acre and is contained.

Panola County: Panola 8837 Fire burned 1.6 acres and is contained.

Rusk County: Live Oak Fire has burned 32 acres and is contained.

DD 14 – (Includes Angelina, Houston, Nacogdoches, Newton, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, and Tyler Counties). As of September 21, TAMFS pre-positioned a Type 1 helicopter in Lufkin.

Sabine County: Sabine 8857 Fire burned one acre and is contained.

Region 7 (Includes DDs 8, 9, and 10)

As of September 18, Region 7 has six personnel assigned to the Dry River Fire in Sutton County. All Hazards Team Echo continues to provide incident support and 911 response capabilities for the communities of Rocksprings, Sonora, and Ozona.

DD 10 – San Angelo (Includes Coke, Concho, Crockett, Edwards, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, and Tom Green Counties): DDEOC 10 maintains to Level III (Increased Readiness Conditions) status.

Concho County:

- 3136 Fire burned 10 acres and is contained.
- Kickapoo Fire burned 13 acres and is contained.

Kimble County: Nethery Fire has burned 250 acres and is 85 percent contained.

Sutton County:

- Dry River Fire has burned 8,939 acres and is 95 percent contained.
- Sutton 8835 Fire has burned 14 acres and is not contained.

Region 8 (Includes DDs 11, 12, 13, 23, and 25)

On September 21, All Hazards group Charlie has been released from the Hydra Fire.

On September 15, an FMAG was approved for the Hydra Fire in Bosque County. As of September 16, twenty-six residents were evacuated from two nursing home facilities. The Bosque County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) remains activated.

DD 11 – Waco (Includes Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan Counties): DDEOC 11 maintains to Level II (Escalated Response Conditions) status.

Bosque County: The Hydra Fire has burned 933 acres and is 74 percent contained.

McLennan County: West Fork Fire has burned 193 acres and is 85 percent contained.

DD 12 – Austin (Includes Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis, and Williamson Counties)

Travis County: Evelyn Fire has burned 68 acres and is 70 percent contained.

RESPONDING STATE AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

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

The State Operations Center (SOC) remains activated to Level II (Escalated Response) status in support of this fire incident. The SOC is directing interagency coordination to maintain unified communication, deploy necessary resources, and support response operations in affected regions across Texas.

ESF-2 Communications Coordination Group (CCG):

The CCG partners continue to respond to issues with telecommunications resulting from the wildfire weather impacting the State of Texas.

As of September 17, TDEM has deployed a Cellular Rapid Deployable (CRD) unit, including a Land Mobile Radio (LMR) component, support vehicle, and personnel in support of the Hydra Fire in Bosque County. The LMR component will provide truck-based radio interoperability with the local trunked radio network. Additionally, all CCG resources assigned to the Ross Fire have been demobilized.

The Information Technology Disaster Resource Center (ITDRC) has demobilized all resources.

ESF-5 Incident Support Task Force (ISTF):

The Incident Support Task Force is assisting in local response and recovery operations in counties affected by the Hydra Fire, assessing needs that become more visible as the fire containment progresses.

As of September 19, the Incident Support Task Force has deployed 10 personnel in support of the Hydra Fire in Bosque County. ISTF personnel continue to support the local EMC with incident command post operations, resource coordination, public information efforts, disaster finance documentation and cost tracking, donations management, and Mass Care activities. ISTF personnel at TDEM Headquarters also remain engaged in supporting incident coordination and situational awareness through ESF-5 operations.

ESF-6 Mass Care (ISTF)

The Incident Support Task Force continues to monitor for potential Mass Care needs throughout upcoming operational periods. Mass Care personnel have been coordinating with the American Red Cross (ARC) and local emergency management officials to assess sheltering options for potential evacuations and support feeding operations related to the Hydra Fire. The Mass Care team demobilized on September 18 and will remain on standby, prepared to re-engage should additional community needs or requests arise.

As of September 18, a total of 21 cattle and 14 calves from Clifton Livestock Commission, along with two sheep from Meridian Livestock Commission, have been sheltered as a precautionary measure. Additionally, 1,275 meals have been distributed to support first responders engaged in response 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):

AgriLife is monitoring fire weather conditions and SOC response activity in person for coverage. Disaster Assessment and Recovery (DAR) Specialists and County Extension Strike Team members are on standby to support any efforts associated with animal response or other fire weather response efforts as requested.

An AgriLife representative is activated to TDEM DDEOC 4 for situational awareness. AgriLife has DAR Specialists and Area Chiefs on standby. As of September 5, AgriLife DAR Specialists and County Extension Agents are conducting fenceline damage

assessments in safe-to-access areas of Jack and Palo Pinto Counties and distributing information on water quality and well testing. Since August 28, 36 agricultural damage reports have been submitted through the State of Texas iSTAT portal for damages to fencing, crops, livestock, and equipment. 13 landowners requested assistance from the AgriLife Extension Service, and County Extension Agents have contacted those landowners to provide relief assistance.

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 828 personnel, with 24 Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Single Resource Engines/Tenders, 52 TIFMAS Strike Team Engines/Tenders, and a variety of aircraft, engines, dozers, and motor graders committed to additional fires around the state.

As of September 21, TAMFS was requested for assistance at the Hydra Fire in Bosque County. TAMFS has 153 personnel, 17 TIFMAS Strike Team Engine/Tenders, and a variety of aircraft, engines, dozers, and motor graders committed to this fire. The fire has forced multiple evacuations to include the city of Meridian and a nursing home. TAMFS continues to engage in fire suppression activities and coordinate with local, state, and federal resources to protect lives and property.

Texas Military Department (TMD):

TMD is supporting TAMFS in supressing wildland fires throughout the state of Texas.

As of September 21, TMD has activated 21 personnel and two aircraft for this response.

On August 19, TMD activated one Rotary Wing Medium MRP and one Rotary Wing Heavy MRP with crews to include one UH-60s and one CH-47 to provide direct support with aerial fire suppression capabilites in response to ongoing fire weather.

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 is working closely with TDEM and other ESF partners through the SOC to ensure resources are available if needed.

TPWD Aviation teams has a helicopter available for wildfire support.

On September 20, the TPWD UAS Team completed thermal mapping and containment assessment support for TAMFS on the Hydra Fire.TPWD Aviation provided aerial survelliance of the Hydra Wildfire, supplying local officials with updated fire conditions

and situational awareness. Aviation resources returned to Austin after completing the mission.

As of September 18, Texas Game Wardens and Park Police officers continue to support wildfire response efforts alongside local first responders. During the Hydra Fire, Game Wardens and Park Police officers have assisted with evacuations as needed and notified State Park visitors of current wildfire conditions. They have also provided direct support by delivering fuel, food, and water to affected areas using 4x4 vehicles.

Texas Game Wardens and Park Police officers will continue to monitor the situation and remain prepared to provide additional support as needed.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT):

TxDOT works to maintain safe roadways for the traveling public during adverse conditions including wildfires. TxDOT is staffing the SOC and coordinating with TAMFS for ongoing DMS wildfire messaging. Up to date road conditions are available on drivetexas.org.

As of September 17, TxDOT is not tracking any road closures. TxDOT San Angelo District has deployed four water tankers to assist firefighters in Sutton County. The TxDOT Waco District has provided fuel and staffing support for the Hydra Fire in Bosque County.

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS):

As of September 19, EMTF resources remain assigned or prepositioned in support of TAMFS wildfire operations, providing force protection, evacuation support, and resource coordination. The CATRAC RMOC remains activated for the Hydra Fire FMAG.

As of September 21, Seven Wildland Fire Support (WLFS) Package teams are assigned, staged, and assisted TAMFS across TDEM regions impacted by wildfires. Additional resources include WPU, Rapid Extraction Module (REM) Teams, ambulances, All Hazards Packages, a Medical Unit Leader (MEDL), and Medical Incident Support Teams (MIST).

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 through the AgriStress Helpline by professionals familiar with rural challenges at (833) 897-2474.

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 Public Safety (DPS):

As of September 17, all DPS resources have returned to regular duty status.

As of September 16, DPS Infrastructure Operations Division (IOD) and Homeland Security Divisions (HSD) Communication Emergency Operations Team are on standby to support Texas Highway Patrol (THP) field operations related to the Hydra Fire. DPS Aviation Operations has one Bell helicopter located in Austin that is ready to assist with fire suppression efforts.

STATE RESOURCES COMMITTED

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TDEM	ISTF HQ	1	0	Released	SOC
TDEM	ISTF HQ	1	0	Assigned	Meridian
TDEM	ISTF Regional Coordinator	1	0	Assigned	Region 8 REOC
TDEM	ISTF Member	5	0	Assigned	Meridian
CCG	Cellular Rapid Deployable	0	1	Assigned	Bosque Co
CCG	Support Vehicle	1	1	Assigned	Bosque Co
TAMFS	Command Staff	5	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	General Staff	22	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	Operations	33	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	Incident Support	29	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	Agency Reps	6	0	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	Aviation	41	47	Assigned	Statewide
TAMFS	Out of State (Field Ops)	265	53	Assigned	Regions 1, 2, 3, 5 & 8
TAMFS	Field Operations	162	69	Assigned	Statewide
TIFMAS	ST Engine/Tender	265	52	Assigned	Statewide
TIFMAS	Single Resource	0	24	Assigned	Statewide
DSHS	SOC LNO	1	1	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	EMTF SCO + MIST	2	1	Assigned	TAMFS EOC

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
DSHS	EMTF SCO	1	1	Assigned	Austin
DSHS	Area MEDL + Tech Specialist	2	1	Available	Parker Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 19	6	4	Assigned	Brown Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 20	6	4	Assigned	Burnet Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 21 + REM	10	6	Assigned	Wichita Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 22 + REM + WPU	12	8	Assigned	Tom Green Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 24	6	4	Assigned	McLennon Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 25	6	4	Assigned	Taylor Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 27 + WPU	8	6	Assigned	Kerr Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 28	6	4	Assigned	Palo Pinto Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 29 + WPU + REM	12	8	Assigned	Hamilton Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 30	6	4	Assigned	Gregg Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 31	6	4	Assigned	Jim Wells Co
DSHS	WLFS PKG 32 + WPU	8	6	Assigned	Tom Green Co
DSHS	AH Charlie	29	13	Assigned	Hill Co
DSHS	AH Delta	22	11	Released	Hill Co
DSHS	AH Echo	22	11	Assigned	Sutton Co
DSHS	TIFMAS Strike Team Ambulances	4	2	Assigned	Sutton Co
HHSC	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TDA	SOC Liaison	1	0	Assigned	SOC (Remote)
TMD	UH-60 ALAMO-01	9	1	Assigned	San Antonio
TMD	CH-47 TANDM-11	12	1	Assigned	Grand Prarie
TPWD	SOC Liaison	1	1	Available	Austin
TPWD	Aviation Helicopters	1	3	Available	Austin

Agency	Resource Kind and Type	Personnel	Equip	Status	Location
TPWD	Game Wardens/ State Park Police	1	1	Assigned	TDEM Region 8
TPWD	EOC Liaision	1	1	Assigned	Bosque Co
TPWD	Aviation UAS	1	2	Available	TDEM Region 8
TPWD	Fuel Trailer	0	1	Assigned	Bosque Co
TPWD	All-Terrain Vehicle	0	1	Assigned	Bosque Co
TxDOT	EMC	1	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	SOC Liaison	2	0	Assigned	Austin
TxDOT	Local District Support	26	23	Assigned	San Angelo and Waco Districts

FINAL COMMENTS: The State Operations Center (SOC) is currently operating 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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