

Firefighting Annex (ESF-4)

State of Texas Emergency Management Plan

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Introduction

This document is an annex to the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan*, which responds to state and federal laws, policies, doctrine and guidelines as described below.

In responding to federal emergency response doctrine and, specifically, the National Response Framework (NRF), the *State of Texas Emergency Management Plan* (State Plan) takes into account the needs of the whole community of citizens likely to be affected by an incident or event that requires a state-level coordinated response.

The State Plan complies with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5 (HSPD-5) "Management of Domestic Incidents" and Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD-8) "National Preparedness," the "National Preparedness Goal," and Texas Executive Order RP40, which mandates the adoption of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the "declared State standard for incident management."

The State Plan is composed of a Basic Plan, functional annexes, and hazard annexes. The State Plan responds to **Texas Government Code, Section 418.042**, which directs the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) to "prepare and keep current a comprehensive state emergency plan." The plan outlines the "coordination of federal, state, and local emergency management activities."

Further, this annex sets forth cross-agency coordination responsibilities as agreed to by Emergency Management Council (EMC) agency representatives in response to their mandate, **Texas Government Code, Section 418.013**, to "assist the division [TDEM] in identifying, mobilizing, and deploying state resources to respond to major emergencies and disasters throughout the state." The State Plan is designed to integrate with other state agency or entity plans and annexes when they are included as subordinate appendices or attachments to the State Plan.

All sections of the plan contain links to related information. For an explanation of the acronyms, abbreviations, and terms in this document, refer to the State of Texas Acronyms and Terms (STAT) Book, which can be found online at [\[unformatted url\]](#).

This document is intended to provide guidance and is not prescriptive or comprehensive. Use judgment and discretion to determine the most appropriate actions at the time of an incident.

Overview and Purpose

Successful response operations assist with the rapid restoration of essential functions while protecting residents from disaster hazards. This planning document defines a standardized statewide approach to firefighting operations for disasters.

Goal

Describe the state's firefighting capabilities, coordination functions, and support operations as they relate to fire incident preparedness, response and recovery.

Objectives

- Provide operational and communication guidance for agencies and organizations that are part of the state's response to fire incidents.
- Provide information to local, regional and state decision-makers about the state's planned response to firefighting.
- Outline the major functions and responsibilities for agencies and organizations involved in firefighting in the State of Texas.
- Describe state agency responsibilities for the detection and suppression of wildland fires and fires in the wildland urban interface, structural and industrial fires.
- Explain methods and procedures for sharing situational information through established channels.
- Provide links to relevant hazard-specific annexes within the State Emergency Management Plan.

Audience

- Texas Emergency Management Council representatives
- State Operations Center personnel
- Disaster District Committee chairs
- Regional Fire Coordinators/Assistant Chief Regional Fire Coordinators
- Local Emergency Management Coordinators

Planning Assumptions

- A jurisdiction may request additional assistance from Disaster District Committees (DDC) when the jurisdiction anticipates a depletion of resources, identifies a gap in resources or exhausts resources.
- If resources or information cannot be provided by the Disaster District Committee (DDC), the DDC Chairperson will send a State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) to the State Operations Center (SOC) for resolution.
- Assistance may be sought from other states and the federal government.
- Fires have the potential to cause significant loss of life and destruction to homes and businesses, as well as major damage to municipal and private utilities.
- Critical infrastructure and the petroleum industry may be affected by fire incidents.
- Multiple fires requiring state assistance may occur at the same time.

- Firefighting resources are limited, and must be prioritized and used appropriately.
- The Texas A&M Forest Service coordinates the state's firefighting response to major and potentially major fire events.
- The decision to expend state funds to provide support and assistance is made only after consideration of both priority of need and cost to the state.
- Local and regional mutual aid is expended before state assistance is requested, except when there is an immediate threat to life and property.
- In situations where lives and property are immediately threatened, the most rapid means of response is implemented.

Concept of Operations

Firefighting activities in the state of Texas vary widely in type, size and complexity. This section outlines the general concept of operations for the state's planned response in support of firefighting operations.

When a fire occurs, local jurisdictions respond using available resources and capabilities. Career, combination and volunteer fire departments support their jurisdictions by responding to fires in their areas of responsibility. To cope with especially large or unique fire conditions, firefighters rely on local mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions to conduct effective suppression activities. Local mutual aid agreements allow local jurisdictions to respond without state assistance in most fire situations. As fires expand and become more complex, state resources may be required.

As mandated by Texas Government Code 418, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is responsible for preparing and maintaining the State of Texas Emergency Management Plan (State Plan). TDEM designates a primary entity to support the planning process for each functional or hazard annex that comprises the State Plan. A primary entity has significant responsibility, resources and capability for this function. Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) is designated the primary entity to assist in this planning effort. Additional support entities are included in the planning effort and provide their knowledge about capabilities, coordination and resources for the annex.

Strategies

This section describes the state's strategies for firefighting response in Texas which include:

[Strategy 1: Coordinate Firefighting Operations](#)

[Strategy 2: Process Firefighting Assistance Requests](#)

[Strategy 3: Provide Resources to Fires of State Significance](#)

Each strategy describes an important piece of the state-level firefighting response in Texas. Additionally, the appendices to this annex provide supplemental detail on specialized firefighting functions.

Strategy 1: Coordinate Firefighting Operations

The firefighting response organization originates at the local level and can expand all the way to the federal government. This section outlines coordination mechanisms used to support emergency firefighting operations.

A coordinated response to fires of state significance, or fires that require state assistance to control, often requires participation from partners at the local, regional, state and federal levels.

This section describes how fire response is coordinated in the state of Texas. First, coordination protocol for routine fires is described for local, regional, state and federal partners. Then, exceptions – such as when a state of disaster is declared, life and property are threatened or a fire exists in the forested areas of east Texas – are explained. The section concludes with a graphic that shows how partners share information in each of these different situations.

Local Coordination - Local Response

As with all disasters, fire response begins at the local level. The local fire department fights the fire in accordance with local policy and procedures, and should designate an Incident Commander (IC) to take control of the incident.

If locally available resources are insufficient, the IC may request support from local mutual aid partners. The IC shares information with the Emergency Management Director (EMD) or Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC), and together these partners coordinate the local response. A summary of the role of each partner is below.

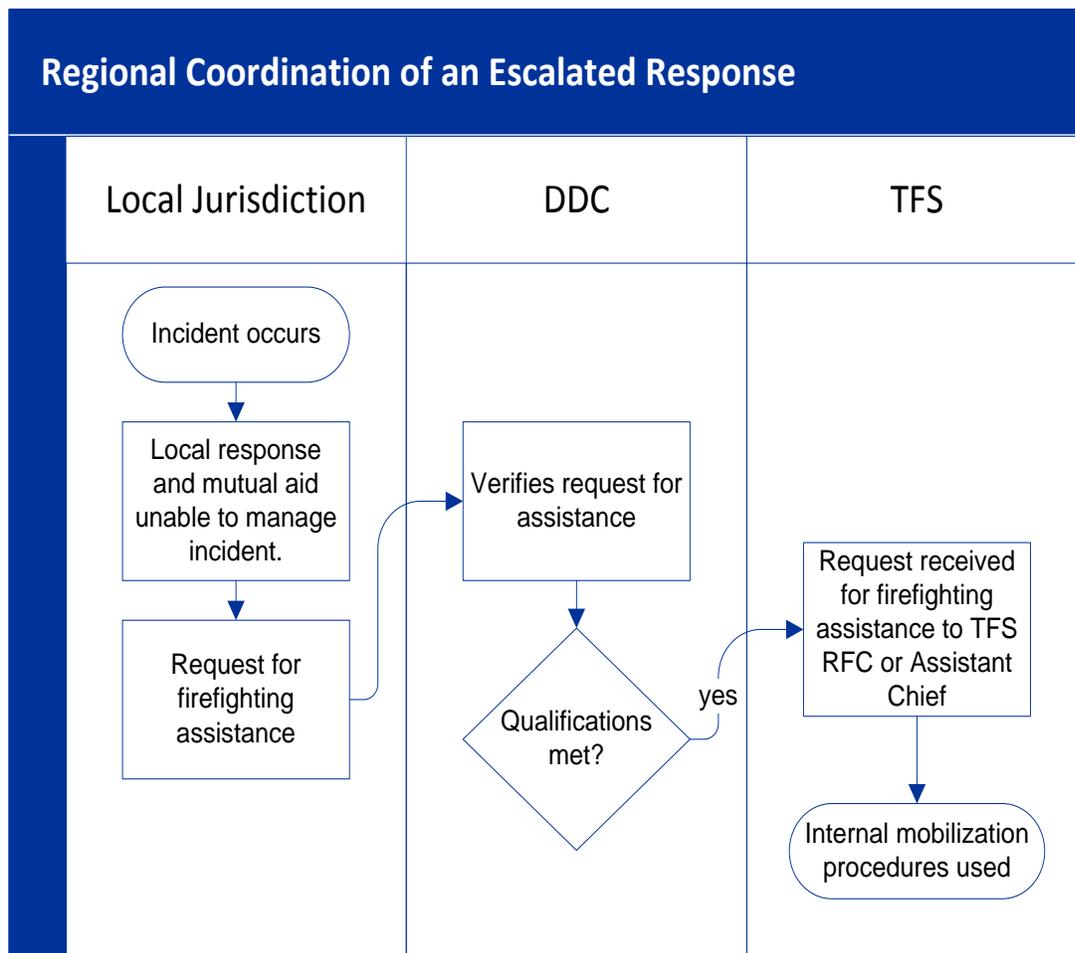
Local jurisdictions can request additional assistance from Disaster District Committees (DDC) when they anticipate a depletion of resources, identify a gap in resources or exhaust resources.

Entity	Agent	Role
City/County	Local Incident Commander	The local response organization, usually the local fire department, should designate an incident commander who is responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources. The IC may make resource requests as necessary to provide effective fire suppression.
	Emergency Management Director	The emergency management

Entity	Agent	Role
		<p>director is designated by the Texas Government Code Chapter 418 as City Mayor or County Judge of each local jurisdiction. The EMD is responsible for the emergency management activities that occur in his/her jurisdiction, and has the formal ability to declare a local state of disaster, request resources from the state and order evacuations of their jurisdiction to protect life during a fire incident. The EMD may delegate his or her authority to the EMC.</p>
	<p>Emergency Management Coordinator</p>	<p>The emergency management coordinator may be employed by a city or county. The EMC may plan and coordinate disaster response or crisis management activities. When fire conditions require additional resources, the EMC may provide support to local firefighting operations by working to provide resource support, track incident cost and assist with warning and communication with local and regional response partners.</p>

Regional Coordination - Escalated Response

When incidents expand beyond the scope of local and local mutual aid response, the EMC or EMD may issue a request for regional assistance to the Disaster District Committee (DDC). Upon verifying the request the DDC contacts the Regional Fire Coordinator (RFC) or Assistant Chief Regional Fire Coordinator (ACRFC) with a resource request. The RFC/ACRFC then follows established internal mobilization procedures; for large incidents, the RFC/ACRFC may contact the incident command post operated by the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS-ICP) for additional assistance. The DDC and RFC/ACRFC maintain contact and coordination with each other throughout this process. This approach is depicted at right.



A summary of the role of each regional entity is summarized below.

Entity	Agent	Role
Disaster District Committee	Disaster District Chair (DDC)	The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) divides the state into 26 disaster districts, which follow Texas Highway Patrol (THP) district boundaries. Each disaster district is commanded by a THP Captain or Command Lieutenant, who serves as the Disaster District Committee (DDC) Chair. The DDC Chair may mobilize state resources to support firefighting operations, including water tenders, bulldozers and other specialized machinery or personnel. For more information on DPS regions and districts click on the link.
Fire Region	Regional Fire Coordinator (RFC)	TFS divides Texas into 24 fire regions, each with an assigned Regional Fire Coordinator (RFC). RFCs supervise the response of TFS resources in the fire region. According to the perceived fire threat, firefighting resources may be staged in strategic locations. The RFC coordinates their use. Click on the link for a map of the TFS Fire Regions .
TFS ICP	Incident Commander (IC)	When a state disaster declaration is in effect or multiple wildland fires are occurring simultaneously, TFS may establish an Incident Command Post (ICP). Resources are tracked and coordinated at the TFS-ICP. The TFS-ICP may be located in proximity to the highly active area.

State Coordination - Escalated Response

As fires grow in size and complexity and regional resources are no longer able to contain or extinguish them, statewide entities may be called upon to assist with coordination. This process begins when the Regional Fire Coordinator or Assistant Chief Regional Fire Coordinator contacts the Texas A&M Forest Service-Emergency Operations Center (TFS-EOC) with a request for support. TFS then either reallocates resources to meet the need or sends the request to the Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC).

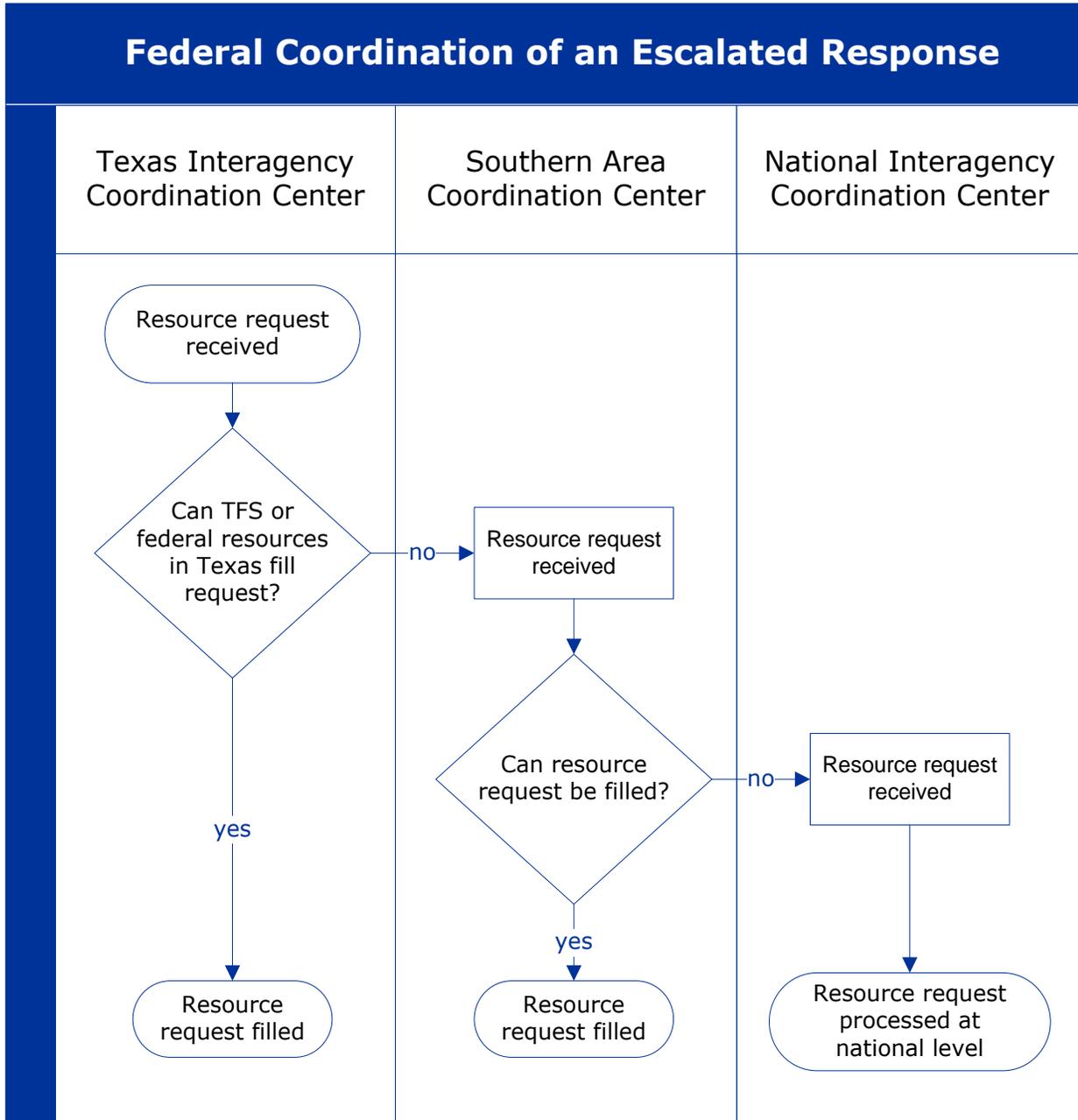
There are three entities that may assist with this coordination. Each of these organizations relies on supporting state response partners to share resources, contracts and information.

The role of each state entity is summarized below.

Entity	Agent	Role
TxDPS-TDEM	State Operations Center	The State Operations Center (SOC) located in Austin, Texas is responsible for the statewide coordination of emergency management activities. It fulfills assistance requests from the DDCs, provides statewide situational awareness, tracks costs associated with the disaster response and coordinates with other states and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for resources that state agencies or private contracts are unable to provide.
TFS	Emergency Operations Center	The Texas A&M Forest Service-Emergency Operations Center (TFS-EOC) is headquartered in College Station, Texas. It provides situational awareness, monitors fire risk and provides overall management of the state’s response to fire operations, including the prioritization of use and location of firefighting resources.
	Texas Interagency Coordination Center	The Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC), located in Lufkin, TX, is jointly staffed and operated by TFS, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The TICC coordinates the ordering of additional out-of-state and national firefighting resources, maintains resource availability status, and coordinates activation of firefighting resources to support interstate mutual aid response operations.

Federal Coordination - Escalated Response

When the state of Texas needs federal support to respond to a fire of state significance, the TICC, in accordance with the National Interagency System Mobilization Standards Guide, attempts to fill orders with TFS or federal wildland fire management agencies in Texas. If the request cannot be fulfilled, the request is passed to the Southern Area Coordination Center (SACC) in Atlanta. If the request cannot be filled by the 13 southern states within the SACC, the SACC sends the request to the National Interagency Coordination Center in Boise, Idaho for processing at the national level.



The process for coordinating support for firefighting resources at the federal level is depicted in the chart at right.

For fires burning on National Forest system lands the federal Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 coordinator assumes full responsibility for suppression of wildland fires.

When non-fire specific resources are needed to support the response to a fire, federal coordination occurs through FEMA’s Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC).

The role of each federal entity is summarized below.

Entity	Agent	Role
FEMA	Region 6 Regional Response Coordination Center	The FEMA Region 6 Regional Response Coordination Center located in Denton, TX coordinates the delivery of federal supplemental assistance to state and tribal governments within FEMA region 6. Support may include food, water, generators and other support teams including the Incident Management Assistance Team to the State Operations Center to coordinate federal assistance.
Southern Area Coordination Group	Southern Area Coordination Center	The Southern Area Coordination group manages collaborative fire and incident management activities. It is responsible for prioritizing the allocation of firefighting and incident management resources when multiple incidents are occurring simultaneously in its geographic area. The Texas Interagency Coordination Center may request resources from the SACC. The area of responsibility includes 13 southern states of: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Carolina, Georgia and Florida as well as the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The SACC is located in Atlanta, Georgia.
National Interagency Fire Center	National Interagency Coordination Center	The National Interagency Coordination Center at the National Interagency Fire Center, located in Boise Idaho, provides interagency coordination to successfully respond to fire incidents. A partner in the National Response Framework, the NICC prioritizes fire resource allocation among multiple

Entity	Agent	Role
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GACCs in line with established priorities including the health and safety of firefighting and the public.

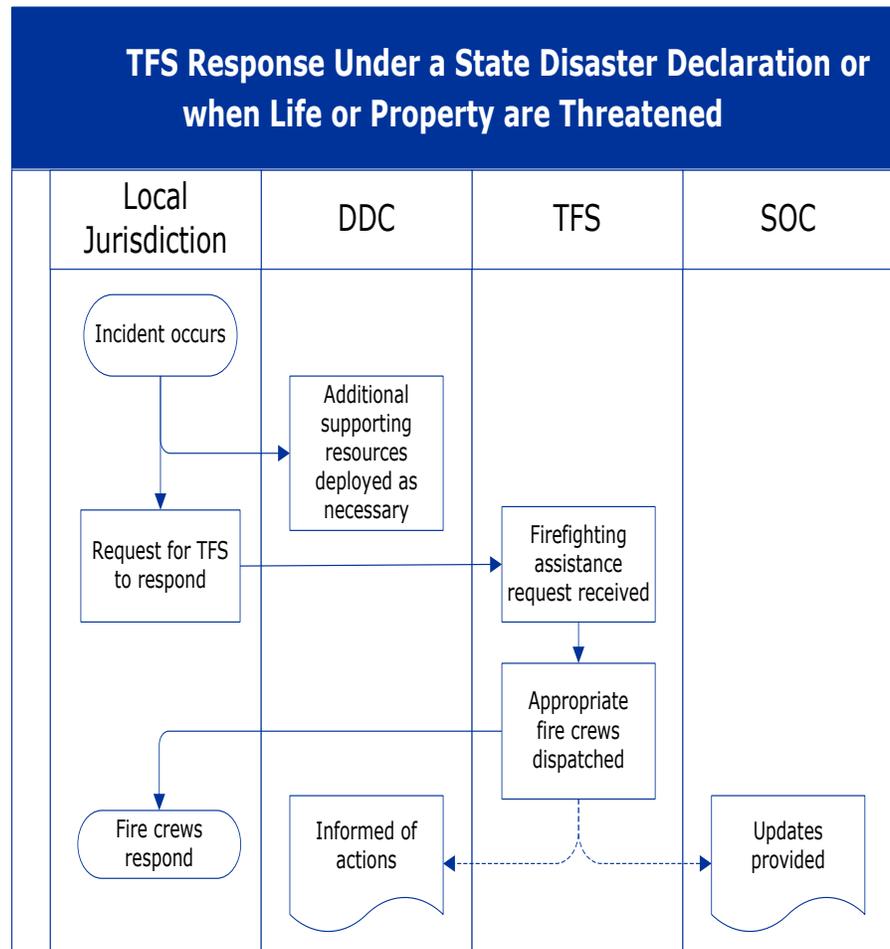
Exception to Routine Response

The routine response, described above, is not followed when there is a state disaster declaration, life and property are threatened; or a fire is located in the forested areas of east Texas. Deviations to the routine process are described here.

State Disaster Declaration or Life and Property Protection

When a state disaster declaration is in effect or when there is a direct threat to life and property, direct communication between ICs, EMCs, EMDs and the RFC/ACRFC is authorized. Direct communication allows local entities to quickly request firefighting assistance directly from the TFS. The process is described and depicted below:

1. The local IC, EMC or EMD requests firefighting assistance directly from the RFC.
2. The RFC/ACRFC provides firefighting resources if available or passes the request to the TFS-EOC or TFS-ICP if required.
3. TFS dispatches appropriate resources to assist the local jurisdictions and notifies the DDC/SOC of these actions.
4. The appropriate fire crews respond.
5. The DDC Chair may deploy additional DDC resources as appropriate to support firefighting operations.

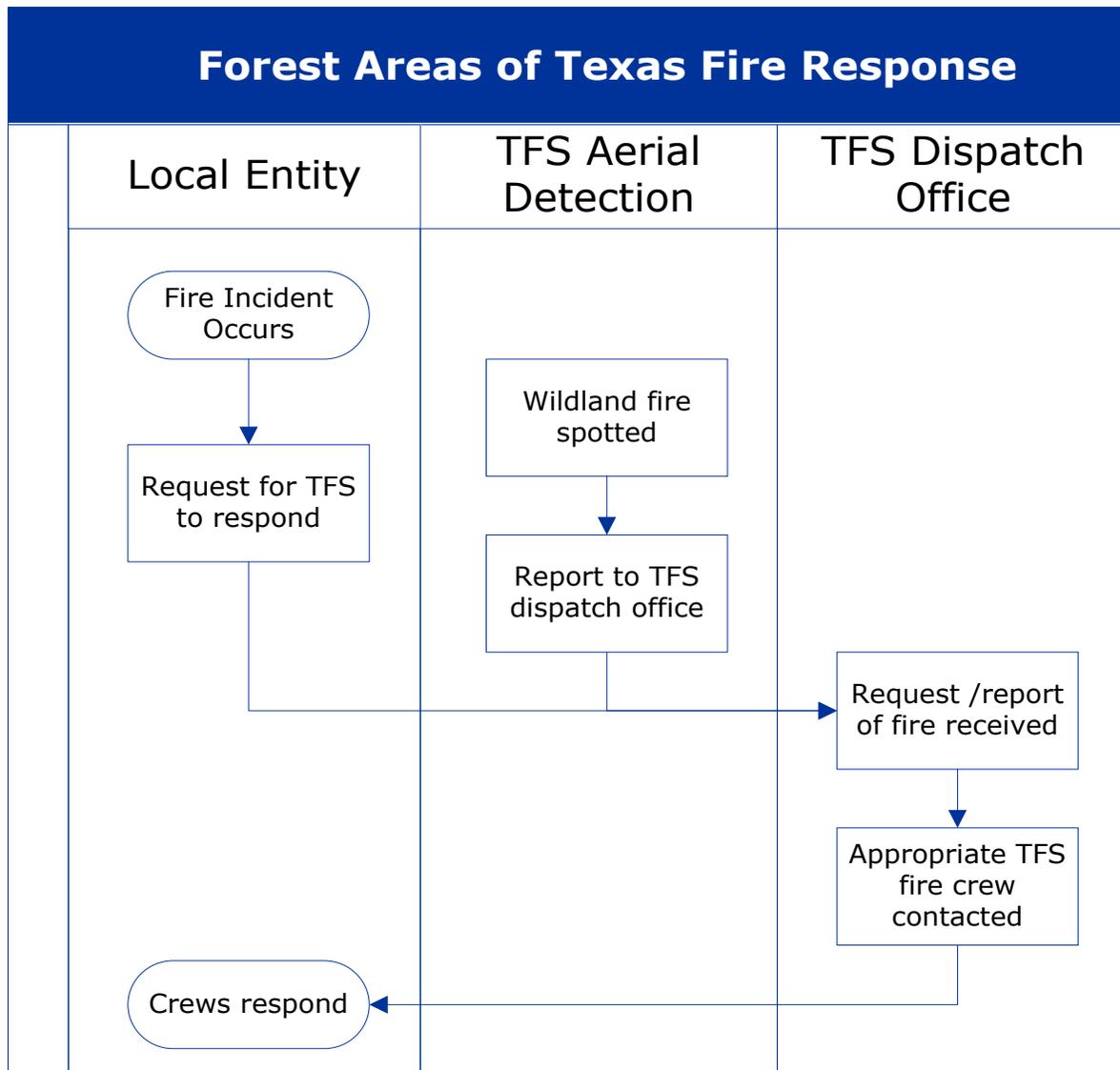


Dotted lines represent administrative actions, no resource movement.

Firefighting Response in the Forested Areas of Texas

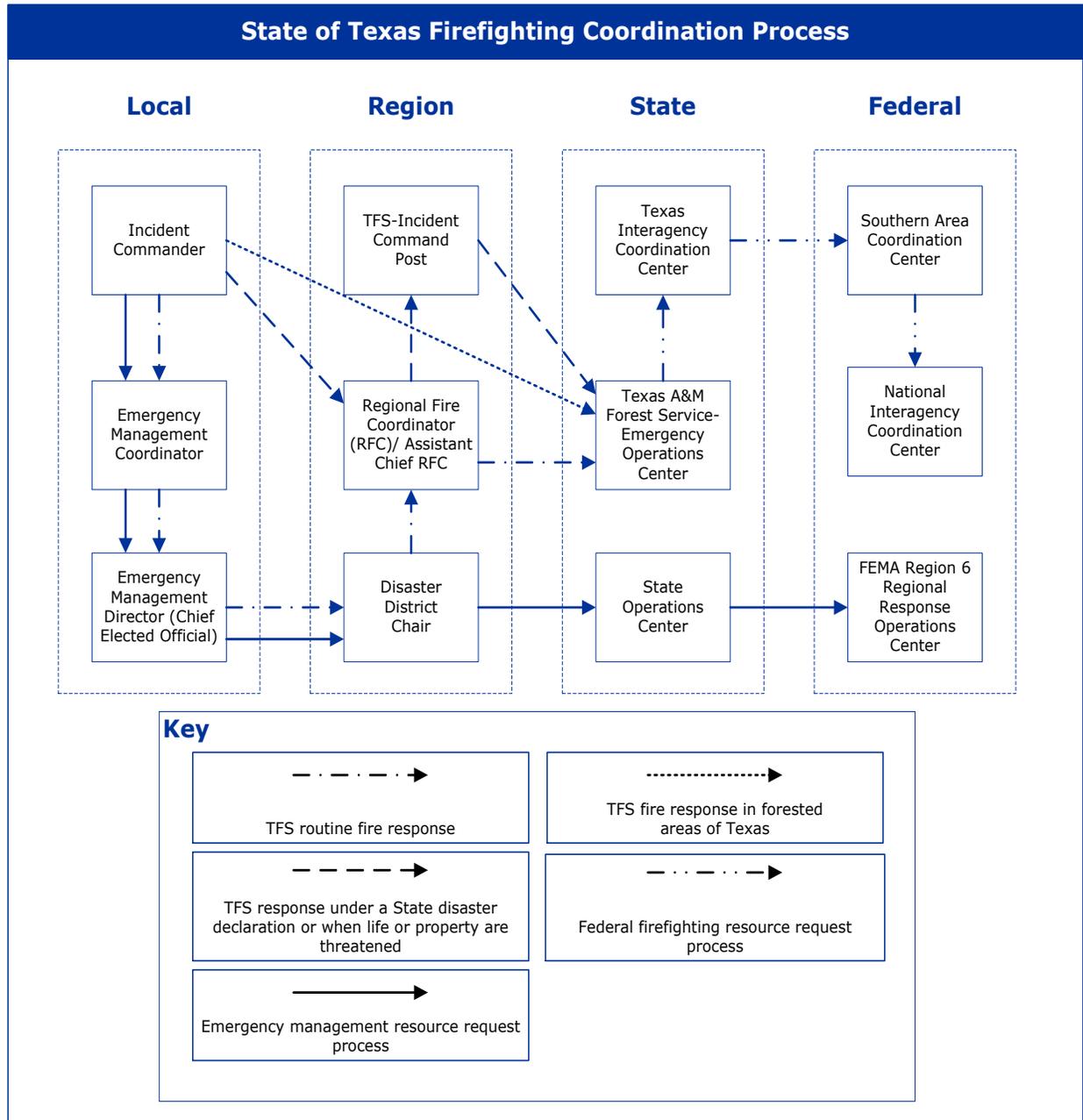
In the forested areas of east Texas, TFS is tasked to take any action deemed necessary to extinguish wildland fires. The unique firefighting applications in this area are described below and depicted below.

1. A local jurisdiction or TFS aerial detection may report a fire to TFS dispatch.
2. TFS dispatch contacts the appropriate TFS fire crew to respond to the incident.
3. Crews respond.



Coordination Summary

As described above, coordination in response to a fire of state significance may be accomplished in a number of ways, and may depend on the fire's location, threat to life and property, and whether a disaster declaration has been issued. The chart below shows how the coordination and information flow differs in each of these situations.



Coordination Tools

The SOC, TFS-EOC, TICC and other organizations use a number of tools to share information, gather and analyze data to produce reports and provide a common operating picture. Having a common operating picture allows responders to make effective, consistent and timely decisions.

The table below provides an overview of each coordination tool.

Tool	Description
Conference Calls	As required for incident coordination, TFS may host morning conference calls to assist with incident coordination. Participants may include: SOC, DDC, TICC, Emergency Management Council agencies and organization, local jurisdictions and others as invited. The SOC may also host conference calls with local, state and federal partners to provide an overview of the current situation and receive reports from the disaster districts.
Situation Report (SITREP)	The SOC publishes a daily situation report to summarize the response activities of the EM council agencies. SITREPs are published on the Texas department of Public Safety website.
Incident Action Plans (IAPs)	IAPs may be published by TFS, the SOC, incident management teams or DDCs when activated. IAPs establish incident objectives, incident status summaries, and communications, medical and logistical plans for complex incident managements.
Common Operating Picture	Organizations may publish a common operating picture which depicts current response activities as well as potential actions to facilitate situational awareness over the long term. (COPELAND 2008) The TFS Emergency Operations Center maintains a fire activity common operating picture in Google Earth which is found on the TICC website.
WebEOC	WebEOC is an Internet-based critical information system that: Captures State of Texas Assistance Requests (STAR) Provides a standard incident reporting platform Shows the status of mass care and other operations across the state Is available to partner organizations
Fuels/Fire Danger Information	The Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Service Department provides short and long-term forecasts and analysis of wildland fire danger and other indices.↗ Predictive services can be found at the Texas Interagency Coordination Center website.

↗ For more information on predictive services, refer to the **State Wildland Fire Hazard Annex**.

Strategy 2: Process Firefighting Assistance Requests

As fires grow in size and complexity, additional resources may be required to fight them. Interstate and intrastate firefighting assistance agreements have been established to fill resource requirements. This section describes these agreements.

Intrastate Firefighting Assistance Agreements

Intrastate firefighting assistance agreements include local mutual aid and the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS). This section describes local mutual aid and TIFMAS, the statewide firefighting mutual aid system.

Local Mutual Aid

Local mutual aid as described in Texas Government Code Chapter 418.109 is the primary mechanism used to facilitate intrastate firefighting assistance. When local mutual aid is exhausted, jurisdictions may request assistance from their DDC or RFC/ACRFC.

Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)

TIFMAS is the intrastate firefighting mutual aid system for the state of Texas. Its request, approval, activation and response occur in collaboration with multiple agencies.

In unique fire situations, when local area fire suppression equipment and/or personnel are overwhelmed, additional emergency response assistance may be required.

Statewide mutual aid is provided in accordance with TIFMAS. The TIFMAS attachment details the request, approval, alert, and activation and implementation process for jurisdictions and organizations party to the statewide agreement including:

- County fire and emergency management coordinators
- Disaster District Committees (DDCs)
- Texas A&M Forest Service
- Texas Division of Emergency Management

TIFMAS support is provided at the request of a local jurisdiction and follows the process outlined below.

1. A local IC identifies a need for mutual aid.
2. The IC contacts local mutual aid partners per local agreements and Texas Government Code 418.109.
3. If additional resources are needed, the County EMC or EMD contacts the MACC /Regional mutual aid (if present).
4. If regional mutual aid is unavailable or additional resources are needed, the County EMC or EMD requests mutual aid from the DDC.
5. The DDC pushes mutual aid request to SOC.

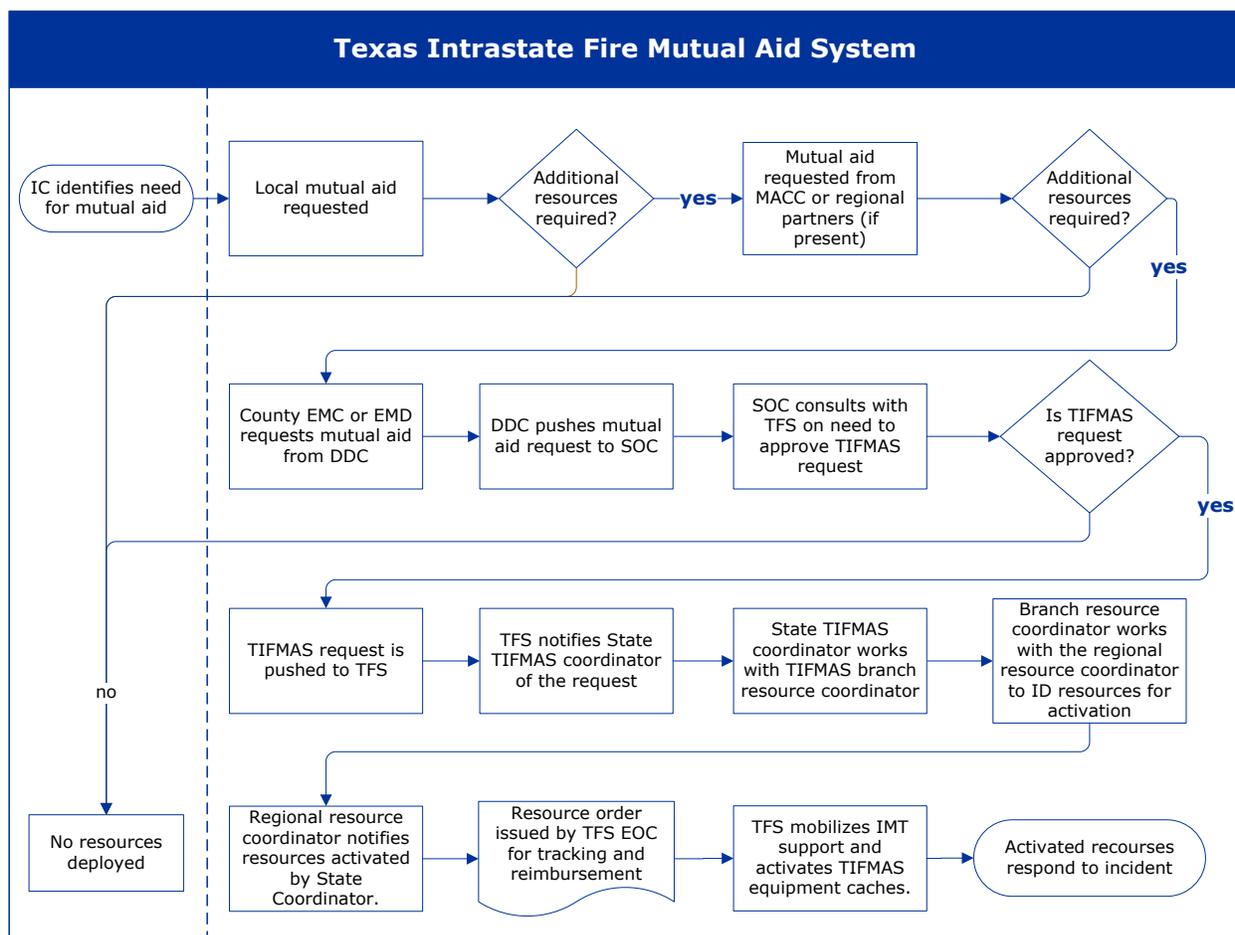
- The SOC consults with TFS on the need to activate TIFMAS resources and then approves or denies the request.

If the TIFMAS request is approved the following process is implemented:

- The TIFMAS request is pushed to TFS.
- TFS notifies State TIFMAS coordinator of the request.
- The TIFMAS coordinator coordinates with the TIFMAS branch resource coordinator.
- The branch resource coordinator works with the regional resource coordinator to identify the appropriate resources for activation.
- The regional resource coordinator notifies the resources activated by the State Coordinator.
- The activated resources are issued a resource order by the TFS EOC for tracking and reimbursement.
- TFS mobilizes IMT Support and activates the TIFMAS equipment caches.

The [TIFMAS Branch Resource Coordinators map](#) can be found on the Texas Interagency Coordination Center website.

The chart below depicts the TIFMAS process.



Interstate Firefighting Assistance Agreements

Interstate assistance involves the provision of firefighting assistance to other states and the receipt of assistance from other states. Texas is a member of three compacts through which out-of-state resources may be ordered. Different ordering processes and uses exist for each compact. These firefighting assistance agreements include:

- South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
- Texas Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement

South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact

Based in Texas Education Code Chapter 88.116, this agreement is among the states of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma. The compact allows for state-to-state resource sharing without the need to go through the federal ordering system. TFS is responsible for initiating and coordinating resource requests through this compact. Texas can call on compact member states for assistance when needed, and is likewise obligated to provide assistance to others when possible. Texas provides and receives resources according to the rules and regulations of this compact. If needed, resources from states outside of those listed in the South Central Interstate Compact may be requested by an inter-compact request process.

Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

The SOC may order resources through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). The compact, found in Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 778, is a nationwide system that uses a request and offer resource request mechanism. A state disaster declaration must be in place to initiate an EMAC request. TDEM has authorized representatives and designated contacts in the EMAC system and works closely with TFS to order resources as needed to support firefighting operations.

Texas Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement

TFS may also order resources through the Texas Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement. This is an agreement among the state of Texas, the US Department of Agriculture-Forest Service and the US Department of the Interior (US Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs). Orders are placed through the national wildland fire dispatch system. Available resources include National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) qualified personnel, aircraft, fire engines, bulldozers, hand crews, IMTs and supplies. All purchases and agreements for the procurement of goods and services are provided in accordance with state standards⁷.

⁷ For more information on purchasing and agreements, refer to the **State Resource Support Annex (M)**.

Strategy 3: Provide Response Resources

State agencies assist with combating fires of state significance in a variety of ways. This section outlines state capabilities used to fight fires in Texas.

Based on needs and operational capabilities state assistance may consist of technical guidance, on-scene needs assessment, administrative support, and deployment of personnel and equipment engaged in firefighting operations. The following table shows some of the resources the state may use.

State agencies' initial expenditure of money in response to an emergency, imminent disaster, or recovery from a catastrophic incident should come from funds regularly appropriated by the legislature. If a state agency requires additional assistance they may contact TDEM to pursue other available options.

Response Resources

The chart below provides an overview of response resources which may be used to combat fires in the state of Texas.

Entity	Resource	Use
American Red Cross (ARC)	Shelter management teams	To assist local jurisdiction with managing and staffing shelters.
	Residential damage assessment teams	To assist with damage assessments in jurisdictions affected by fires.
	Responder canteen services	To supply rest and rehabilitation services to firefighters and other emergency responders.
Civil Air Patrol (CAP)	Fixed wing aircraft with aerial photo capability	To take aerial photos to assist in visualizing the extent of damage.
Disaster District Committee (DDC)	DDC Chair may dispatch any state resources in his/her district	To support local jurisdictions with an all hazard response after local mutual aid has been exhausted.
Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)- Aircraft	Helicopter and fixed wing air assets, with forward-looking infrared (FLIR), no water buckets	To provide aerial damage assessment of fire damage, to GPS wildland fires and view hotspots.
Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)-	Satellite Communication- VOIP/Internet/WiFi	To support communications systems in areas where the communications infrastructure is limited or inoperable.

Entity	Resource	Use
Communications Coordination Group (CCG)	All-Hazards Communications Unit Leaders and Technicians	To support the incident management team with credentialed individuals with communication leadership and technical skills.
	Mobile command post	To improve operational coordination on large multi-jurisdiction incidents.
	Communications equipment	To improve interoperable communications in rural area or area with damaged radio infrastructure.
Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)-Texas Highway Patrol (THP)	Law enforcement personnel	To back up or provide support to local law enforcement especially for access control, traffic management, perimeter security, evacuation support, emergency warning and communications support.
Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)	Animal Branch Incident Management Teams (AIMT)	To provide trained incident management professionals with a specialization in animal issues and health.
	Animal Needs Assessment Teams (ANAT)	To assist with animal-related assessments within disaster areas.
	Basic Response Teams (BRT)	To integrate into incident management structure, respond to all animal-response needs requests, provide guidance as necessary and assist in all response requests for rescue, secure/capture, triage and/or transport.
	Horseback Emergency Response Teams (HERT)	To assist with animal assessment in remote or difficult to access areas of a disaster.
	Livestock Handling Teams (LSHT)	To assist with the capture, evaluation, sorting/segregation and movement of livestock.
	Mobile corrals and livestock	To provide livestock, service,

Entity	Resource	Use
	handling equipment	companion animals and household pets with services and containment.
	Subject Matter Expert (SME) assistance for animal sheltering-related issues and for animal carcass-related issues	To provide technical expertise for shelter facilities and operations, animal health and safety, animal identification, handling, reunification additionally carcass identification and removal/disposal techniques.
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	Environmental monitoring teams and contractors	To monitor the active or potential release of toxic emissions from industrial/commercial fires.
	SME technical assistance for public drinking water and wastewater systems	To assist in the damage assessment and restoration of utility systems after wildland fires and urban conflagrations.
Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)	Transportation resources	To provide flatbed, box truck and other transportation services as requested.
	Offender hand crews	To provide offender hand crews to conduct mop-up operations on fires.
Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services (TEEX)	Type 1 Urban Search and Rescue Taskforce	To conduct urban search and rescue of homes and wide area search of areas impacted by fire.
	Technical assistance	To provide oversight and support on resource allocation and tactics (for industrial and maritime incidents)
Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS)	Incident management teams	To assist with the management of information and the ordering, tracking, accountability and demobilization of resources.
	Technical assistance	To provide oversight and support on resource allocation and tactics.
	Hand crews	To support local jurisdictions with additional firefighting resources.
	Bulldozers/maintainers	To cut fire lines to achieve fire containment and establish

Entity	Resource	Use
		access.
	Fixed/rotary wing fire suppression aircraft**	To support local jurisdictions with wildland fire suppression.**
	Engines/Water tenders	To support local jurisdictions.
The Salvation Army (TSA)	Responder canteen services	To supply rest and rehabilitation services to firefighters and other emergency responders.
Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)	Bulldozers/maintainers	To cut fire lines to achieve fire containment and establish access.
	Mobile messaging road signs	To inform public of dangerous or potentially dangers conditions.
	Traffic control	To support local jurisdictions with traffic control operations.
	Mobile fueling trucks	To provide onsite fueling capabilities to response equipment.
Texas Military Department (TMD)	Light Aerial Wildfire Suppression Mission Ready Package*	To provide aerial firefighting suppression with helicopters.
	Heavy Aerial Wildfire Suppression Mission Ready Package*	To provide aerial firefighting suppression with helicopters.
	Ground Wildfire Suppression Mission Ready Packages	To support, in coordination with TFS, local jurisdictions with ground firefighting attack.
	6th Civil Support Team	To monitor the air quality around incidents including commercial and industrial fires.
	Interoperable Communications Package	To expand and support local radio interoperability.

* Additional fixed and rotor wing aircraft may be available through the Interstate Firefighting Assistance Agreements.

**Fixed/rotary wing aircraft may be coordinated through TFS but are not owned by TFS; rather they are being used by an interagency agreement.

Summary of Responsibilities

This section specifies the responsibilities of stakeholders with capabilities during firefighting preparedness, response and recovery.

All state Emergency Management Council (EMC) agencies and organizations that support firefighting response are responsible for the tasks listed below.

Common Stakeholder Responsibilities

Use the following checklist to ensure all EMC responsibilities are addressed.

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<p>Determine staff requirements.</p> <p>Identify specific personnel who can fill extended emergency duty positions in the state operations center (SOC), agency emergency operation centers (EOCs), state medical operations center (SMOC), Disaster District emergency operations center, multi-agency coordination centers (MACCs), the Joint Field Office (JFO), field command posts, traffic control and/or reentry points. Ensure that the number of personnel identified is adequate.</p> <p>Train representatives in accordance with National Incident Management System (NIMS) requirements and ensure that these representatives are made aware of the capabilities of their parent organization to provide assistance and support and be prepared to provide recommendations.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate action guides and standard operating guides are developed and maintained.</p> <p>Develop and maintain contact lists and notification procedures.</p> <p>Develop and maintain procedures for identifying, locating, committing, deploying and accounting for agency emergency support resources.</p>
Response	<p>Assist with fulfilling intrastate and interstate mutual aid when possible.</p> <p>Provide situational and operational status reports in accordance with existing procedures and/or as requested by the primary agency.</p> <p>Support and coordinate accessibility and functional needs support services.</p>

Stakeholder-Specific Responsibilities

Some agencies provide personnel and/or equipment, while other agencies offer knowledge and expertise in working with response agencies, the vendor community, commercial organizations or associations that supply or restore services.

The following tables show stakeholder responsibilities organized by function. Stakeholders are listed in alphabetical order.

Primary Agency: Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<p>Identify and coordinate ESF staffing requirements appropriate to the emergency situation.</p> <p>Coordinate firefighting ESF group actions to develop and implement mutual aid programs and procedures.</p> <p>Monitor weather, drought, condition of fuels and overall fire danger to guide adequate resource staffing at the state and local level and make these products available to cooperators and elected officials via the internet.</p> <p>Serve as a member of the TIFMAS stakeholder committee.</p> <p>Develop, maintain, and distribute this annex, and associated SOP/SOG.</p> <p>Conduct training including courses from the National Fire Academy, the Emergency Management Institute and National Wildfire Coordination Group.</p> <p>Staff and operate statewide fire department directory to include fire department information and fire reporting.</p> <p>Coordinate the development and establishment of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), Firewise Communities, Ready, Set, Go, and Wildfire Pre-Attack Plans.</p> <p>Continuously examine emerging trends within the wildland Urban Interface which impact suppression efforts; provide information and findings to fire departments, reduce hazardous fuels within at risk communities and establish proactive wildland fire preparedness programs targeting citizens and businesses.</p>
Preparedness/Response	<p>Staff and operate the TICC in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service and U. S. Department of the Interior.</p> <p>Staff and operate the TFS EOC for fire and all-hazard incidents.</p>
Response	<p>Process requests for state firefighting assistance with the ESF support agencies and coordinate possible mission assignments with the designated direction and control authority.</p> <p>Collect information from support agencies and provide reports concerning emergency support operations in accordance with applicable procedures.</p> <p>Detect wildland fires in Texas.</p>

Phase	Task
	<p>Within capabilities, provide personnel and equipment to assist local governments and industry in conducting fire suppression operations in Texas.</p> <p>Provide NIMS/ICS-experienced personnel and incident management teams as requested, to assist in accomplishment of emergency state direction and control activities.</p> <p>Within capabilities, provide assistance to other states under provisions of existing interstate mutual assistance compacts and cooperative agreements.</p> <p>Coordinate activities necessitated by the implementation and demobilization firefighting assistance provided or received under provisions of current mutual assistance plans and compacts.</p> <p>Staff and operate field command centers as needed and as appropriate.</p> <p>Provide technical assessments for FEMA Fire Management Assist Grants (FMAG) assessments.</p> <p>Track associated incident costs.</p> <p>Facilitate and manage the Unified Command Landowner Liaison Program.</p>
Recovery	<p>Assess fire incident damage.</p> <p>Coordinate the reforestation of damaged forested areas.</p> <p>Compile and submit cost data for state and federal reimbursement.</p>

American Red Cross (ARC)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	Conduct community preparedness education activities.
Response	<p>Assist local jurisdictions with the sheltering of displaced residents.</p> <p>As requested, provide canteen services for firefighters responding to incidents.</p> <p>Conduct damage assessments of residential structures impacted by fire.</p>
Recovery	Provide client assistance and casework.

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Phase	Task
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response/Recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within capabilities, and as requested, provide aviation support to operations. As requested provide post-incident aerial

Phase	Task
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imagery.

Communications Coordination Group (CCG)

Phase	Task
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Preparedness Maintain the operational readiness of communications networks and deployable equipment.

Response Coordinate communications assets in response to disasters. Provide equipment support to field operations. Assist in the coordination of inter-agency communication.

The Salvation Army (TSA)

Phase	Task
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Response As requested, provide canteen services for firefighters responding to incidents.

Recovery Provide client casework for individuals impacted by disaster.

Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA)

Phase	Task
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Preparedness/Response Facilitate and manage the Unified Command Landowner Liaison Program.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife)

Phase	Task
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Preparedness/Response

- Facilitate and manage the Unified Command Landowner Liaison Program.
- Coordinate emergency livestock feeding program.
- Within capabilities and as requested provide public information and extension.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research Spatial Sciences Lab

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce daily statewide wildland fire danger products including observed and forecasted fire danger. Produce daily statewide drought assessment products including the 4 kilometer gridded Keetch-Byram Drought Index.

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Services (TEEX)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ESTI-Operate the state’s principle firefighting school. Instruct courses relating to structural, industrial, maritime, wildland urban interface firefighting, hazardous materials, search and rescue and weapons of mass destruction. Conducts National Fire Academy and the Emergency Management Institute courses. Serve as a member of TIFMAS stakeholder group.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical guidance and assistance on issues involving marine, large industrial and structure fires. Within capabilities, and as requested, provide specialized personnel and equipment to local, industrial, and maritime entities. TX-TF1-Coordinate urban search and rescue response statewide with local and industrial entities.

Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide animal-specific training and technical advice to local jurisdictions, first responder, public safety agencies, and animal industry partners. Provide carcass removal awareness and training to local jurisdictions. Coordinate disease surveillance and identification operations.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support pet and livestock shelter operations. Coordinate operations of Veterinary Response Teams. Coordinate operations of TAHC emergency response teams and Mission Ready Packages Within capabilities, coordinate and facilitate animal rescue operations. Coordinate disease surveillance and identification operations.

Phase	Task
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate carcass removal operations with local jurisdictions. Coordinate wildland fire response activities with the USDA and animal industry entities. Coordinate the Unified Command Landowner Liaison Program.
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support reunification of pets and livestock with their owners, to the extent possible. Coordinate carcass removal operations with local jurisdictions. Coordinate disease surveillance and identification operations. Coordinate the Unified Command Landowner Liaison Program.

Texas Commission of Fire Protection (TCFP)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within capabilities, and as requested, provide technical guidance, assistance, and coordination on issues involving fire protection personnel certified by the TCFP. Serve as a member of the TIFMAS stakeholder committee.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

Phase	Task
Response	When necessary, monitor air quality in response to commercial or industrial fires.
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist local jurisdictions with livestock carcass disposal and provide subject matter expertise on the regulations regarding the burial of dead animals. Assist, as requested, with the assessment of public drinking water/wastewater systems that may have been damaged by wildland fires. Assist with providing subject matter expertise, guidance and authorizations for temporary debris management sites. Assist, as requested, with establishing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events. Assist with providing subject matter expertise and guidance on the disposal of debris. Assist with providing subject matter expertise and guidance on the response, clean-up, and/or disposal of hazardous materials from commercial, industrial or

Phase	Task
	wildland fires.

Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)

Phase	Task
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within capabilities, and as requested, provide trained offender hand crews to perform mop up operations. ▪ Within capabilities, and as requested, provide logistical support to include transportation assistance in support of operations.

Texas Department of Insurance (TDI)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide arson investigations, business licenses and inspections, and maintain the Texas Fire Incident Reporting System (TEXFIRS). ▪ Within capabilities, and as requested, provide public information and education services. ▪ Serve as a member of the TIFMAS stakeholder committee.
Recovery	Coordinate firefighter Line-of-Duty Death investigations.

Texas Department of Public Safety (TxDPS)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	TDEM -Serve as a member of the TIFMAS stakeholder committee.
Preparedness/Response	TDEM/DC -Act as a liaison with local government, provide support to DDCs and provide situational information to the SOC.
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ THP-Assist with law enforcement and provide additional manpower as requested. ▪ TDEM-Assist in the coordination and approval of TIFMAS requests. ▪ TDEM SOC-Provide, as requested, resource support for state agencies response to TFS, other state agencies or any local jurisdiction with support issues (i.e. evacuation and shelters). ▪ Aircraft-Within capabilities, and as requested, provide

Phase	Task
	<p>air observations platform, data gathering and if available provide video download video.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DDC-Coordinate State resources within its geographic boundaries.
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Driver's License Division (DLD)-provide driver's license and identification card assistance to card holders who documents were lost in residential fires. ▪ TDEM-Prepare disaster declarations to facilitate federal assistance. ▪ TDEM-Facilitate Fire Management Assistance Grant reimbursement. ▪ TDEM-Coordinate Stafford Act Reimbursement of federally declared disasters.

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

Phase	Task
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within capabilities, and as requested, provide fueling, water supply and heavy equipment in support of operations. ▪ Within capabilities, and as requested, provide transportation assistance in support of operations. ▪ Provide support for traffic control to local jurisdictions.

Texas Industrial Emergency Service Board (TIESB-SFFMA)

Phase	Task
Preparedness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assist in the development of catastrophic fire of state significance plans. ▪ Serve as a member of the TIFMAS stakeholder committee.
Response	<p>May provide personnel and equipment to catastrophic fires of state significance.</p>

Texas Military Department (TMD)

Phase	TMD Task
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide aviation fire suppression mission ready packages in support of operations. ▪ Provide logistical support to include transportation assistance in support of operations. ▪ Provide communications support of operations.

Phase	TMD Task
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- Provide ground wildland fire suppression/bulldozer mission ready package.

University of Texas Center for Space Research (UTCSR)

Phase	Task
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Preparedness	Monitor statewide vegetation conditions using satellite remote sensing to assess the changing threat environment and routinely collect and distribute satellite thermal detections to locate active wildland fires.
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Response	Access and distribute satellite and aerial imagery from federal agency sources and task international satellite assets during catastrophic wildland fire outbreaks.
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Recovery	Coordinate Texas Civil Air Patrol documentary photography and distribute geolocated imagery used for damage assessment and forensic investigations.
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Authority

Strategic planning guidance and authorities governing the enactment and implementation of this annex are summarized below.

The following table presents specific sources, their relevance to this document, and hyperlinks to their online location.

Source	Relevance	Link
Texas Government Code Section 417.007	Designates when and why the State Fire Marshal's Office will investigate a fire in the state of Texas.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.417.htm#417.007
Texas Government Code Section 417.0052	Outlines the responsibilities for maintaining and administering the Texas Fire Incident Reporting System.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.417.htm#417.0052
Texas Government Code Section 418.109	Authorizes a local government entity or organized volunteer group to provide mutual aid assistance upon the request from another local government entity or organized volunteer group.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.109
Texas Government Code Section 418.042	Allows for the creation and maintenance of the State Emergency Management Plan.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.042
Texas Government Code Section 418.83	It is the intent of the legislature that in responding to an emergency or disaster, the first recourse of state and local agencies should be to the funds regularly appropriated to those agencies.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.83
Texas Government Code Chapter 418.110	Authorizes the development of a statewide mutual aid program for fire emergencies.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.110
Texas Government Code Section 418.117	If the assistance of a person who holds a license, certificate, permit, or other document qualification in a professional, mechanical, or other skill is requested by a state agency or local government entity under the system, the person is considered licensed, certified, permitted, or otherwise documented in the	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.117

Source	Relevance	Link
	political subdivision in which the service is provided as long as the service is required.	
<p>Texas Government Code Chapter 418 Section 111-118</p>	<p>This subchapter outlines the specific requirements, procedures and policies for the Texas Statewide Mutual Aid System.</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.111</p>
<p>Texas Government Code Chapter 418 Section 190</p>	<p>This section identifies and directs TAHC to provide information on recovery, relief, and assistance requirements following all types of disasters and to prepare information relevant to an all-hazards approach to agricultural disaster management.</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.418.htm#418.190</p>
<p>Texas Agriculture Code Chapter 161 Section 041</p>	<p>This section directs TAHC to protect all livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, and exotic fowl from specific diseases. Authorizes TAHC to make and enforce regulations to prevent, control, and eradicate specific infectious animal diseases which endanger livestock.</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/AG/htm/AG.161.htm#161.041</p>
<p>Texas Education Code Chapter 88, Subchapter B.</p>	<p>Authorizes the Texas A&M Forest Service Director to assume direction of all forest interests and all matters pertaining to forestry within the jurisdiction of this state, and take any action deemed necessary to prevent and extinguish wildfires.</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/GV/htm/GV.419.htm</p>
<p>Texas Education Code Section 88.105</p>	<p>This statute authorizes every employee of the Texas A&M Forest Service and their designee to enter privately-owned land as required for fire suppression and investigation.</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.88.htm#88.104</p>
<p>Texas Education Code Section 88.106</p>	<p>Authorizes the director of the Texas A&M Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements on forestry projects with the National Forest Service and other federal agencies. This allows for the authorization of the Texas Cooperative Wildfire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement.</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.88.htm#88.106</p>
<p>Texas Education Code Section 88.116</p>	<p>The purpose of this compact is to promote effective prevention and control of forest fires in the South Central region of the United States by the development of integrated forest fire plans, by the maintenance of adequate forest fire fighting services by the member States, by</p>	<p>http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.88.htm#88.116</p>

Source	Relevance	Link
	providing for mutual aid in fighting forest fires among the compacting states of the region and with states which are party to other Regional Forest Fire Protection compacts or agreements, and for more adequate forest development.	
Texas Education Code Section 88.118	Calls for the employment of regional fire coordinators, the division of the state into six wildfire control regions, matching those of the Texas Department of Public Safety and the designation of a regional command post for each wildfire control region.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.88.htm#88.118
Texas Education Code Section 88.120	Calls for TFS to be the lead state agency to provide and coordinate training for fighting wildland fires.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.88.htm#88.120
Texas Education Code Section 88.122	Authorizes the Texas A&M Forest Service to maintain and support all hazard incident management teams.	http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/ED/htm/ED.88.htm#88.122
Texas Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement	An agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, U.S. Department of the Interior and the state of Texas to facilitate the exchange of personnel, equipment, supplies, services and funds.	http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/management_admin/incident_business/states/tx/TX%20COOP%20WILDLAND%20FIRE%20MANG.pdf
Cooperative agreements with local government, fire departments and Texas A&M Forest Service	A collection of agreements with local governments, fire departments and the Texas A&M Forest Service for the provision of fire suppression services.	On file with the Texas A&M Forest Service

Record of Changes

This section describes changes made to this document: when they were made, what they were and who authorized them.

TDEM authorizes and issues changes to this document until such time as it is superseded. This document and all attachments are living documents. Council member representatives are responsible for participating in plan reviews and are required to provide information concerning capability changes that impact their emergency management responsibilities. TDEM coordinates the plan updating process and maintains the plan after receiving feedback and updates from partner agencies.

Primary and support agencies must ensure all records necessary for emergency management operations are obtainable and that duplicate records are held at alternate locations.

Use this table to record the following information:

- Change number, in sequence, beginning with 1
- Date change was made to the document
- Description of change and rationale if applicable
- Initials of person who made the change

Number	Date	Description	Initials
1	7/24/14	Updated firefighting coordination graphic to improve black and white readability.	J.K.
2	07/29/16	Added ESF to cover page per Section Administrator's instruction.	W.P.
3	12/19/16	Updated introduction page, cover, added new assumptions, deleted the "Using this Document" section, deleted the preface page, added new introduction page, added new paragraph into CONOPS, added new language to the "exhausted all resources", deleted the Maintenance Page, deleted the Reference Page and move appendices to the end of the document.	DA
4	01/29/17	Updated template style (color, title page, bullets).	DA

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This section provides a list of organizations and individuals who contributed to the development of this document.

This annex could not have been developed without the participation and collaboration of representatives from multiple organizations.

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List of Attachments

This section lists the attachments to this document.

Attachments to this document are considered additional reference tools, which are presented as separate documents for your convenience.

Attachment 1: Industrial Fires of State Significance

The Industrial Fires of State Significance attachment outlines the coordination required for fighting fires in industrial settings.

Attachment 2: Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS)

The TIFMAS attachment outlines the operational components of the TIFMAS program.