

Texas Coastal Cooperative Enforcement



Guam Coastal Symposium August 2025

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Texas Wildfire Response History

- 1914-1915 Texas Forestry Service (TFS) Created—Later moved to Texas A&M University System in College Station.
- 1920s Wildfires—Creation of TFS Law Enforcement Division to investigate wildfire causes, assist with arson arrests and conduct education and outreach efforts.
- 1993 Legislature Specifically Directed TFS to Coordinate Major or Potentially Major Wildfire Response.
- 2011 Wildfires—Most devastating wildfires in State History.
- 2017 Hurricane Harvey Hits Texas Coast—Causes review of Texas Emergency Response Operations and movement of TDEM from TDPS to Texas A&M System.
- Today TFS has up to 10 Investigators and up to 15 Law Enforcement Officers (Licensed through TCOLE). They support the 1,852 fire departments across the state.



GLO Oil Spill Prevention and Response

- Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act 1991 (OSPRA)
- Penalties for Any Oil That is Released into Coastal Waters
- Five Oil Spill Offices Along the Texas Coast
- Certified Facility Program—Reduces Penalties by 50%
- Industry Response Drills and Exercises
- Education and Outreach
- Oil Spill Tool Kit



Planning and Outreach

- Master Planning at State Level Setting Strategies and Minimal Standards
- Work with Communities Through Joint Planning and Not Dictating Specific Measures
- Every Community Has Different Needs and Concerns
- Strive for Compliance through Engagement and Cooperation Instead of Penalties and Injunctions
- Continued Community Engagement and Grant Workshops



Monitoring and Observation Tools

- Texas Intrastate Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) Wildfire Specific System
- Texas FireConnect Portal directory and portal for record submission
- Variety of Weather Prediction tools and partnership with NWS, including fire weather stations across the state
- Fire Wildfire Prevention Spatial Assessment and Planning Strategies (WPSAPS) application.
- Proscribed Burns and Notifications Programs



Incident Command Structure

- Led by TDEM and Texas Task Force 1—Texas Interagency Coordination Center (TICC) for Wildfires and Specific Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs)
- Allows Efficient, Strategic Deployment of State Resources
- Led at State Level and Integrates Local Emergency Response
- All-State Hazards so TFS and GLO at Other Incidents like Flooding and Hurricane Response



Cooperative Enforcement

- TFS Provides Expertise for Local Law Enforcement and Firefighters—Investigations and Expert Testimony
- 1st Degree Felony (Up to 99 Years)—Intention to Destroy and Causes Bodily Harm or Damages Place of Worship.
- 2nd Degree Felony (Up to 20 Years)—Intention to Destroy
- 3rd Degree Felony (Up to 10 Years)—Reckless (Conscious Disregard to Risk) Cause Damage or Attempting to Manufacture Controlled Substance, and Bodily Injury
- State Jail Felony (Up to 2 Years)—Reckless Cause Damage or Reckless and Attempting to Manufacture Controlled Substance
- Class C Misdemeanor and Injunction (No Jail)—Intentional or Knowing Burn Ban Violation, or Maintaining Property that is a Nuisance (Fire Hazard)
- Class B Misdemeanor and Injunction (Up to 6 Months)—Nuisance and Previous Conviction
- Municipal Ordinances



Thank You!

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