



Smokehouse Creek, Windy Deuce and Grape Vine Creek Fires

March 4, 2024

SOUTHERN AREA INCIDENT MANAGEMENT BLUE TEAM

CHARLIE PATTERSON,
INCIDENT COMMANDER

Smokehouse Creek Fire

Current Size: 1,076,638 Acres
Current Containment: 15%
Location: Origin 1 mile N. of Stinnett, TX
Start Date: February 26, 2024
Resources Assigned:
Total personnel: 181
Engines: 8
Dozers: 36

Windy Deuce Fire

Current Size: 144,206 Acres
Current Containment: 55%
Location: Masterson to Fritch City, TX
Start Date: February 26, 2024
Resources Assigned:
Total personnel: 209
Engines: 28
Dozers: 2

Grape Vine Creek Fire

Current Size: 34,882 acres
Current Containment: 60%
Location: SW and East of Lefors, TX
Start Date: February 26, 2024
Resources Assigned:
Engines: 5
Total Personnel: 28

AVAILABLE AIR RESOURCES:

3 large airtankers stationed in Abilene
2 scoopers, 2 lead aircraft
6 single engine airtankers (3 in Dumas,
3 in Childress)
Two Chinook, One Blackhawk and
One Type 3 helicopters in Abilene

Smokehouse Creek Fire: Firefighters continue to monitor and respond to unburned areas within the fire perimeter that have been flaring up, while also continuing to mop-up. Thirty-six dozers will assist ground personnel and continue to construct fire lines where needed. The northern perimeter of the fire features many canyons and continues to be an area of concern. Primary efforts today are holding the lines on the south side of the fire, as north winds will again test the established perimeter.

Windy Deuce Fire: The lines were tested yesterday, particularly on the western perimeter. Engine crews were assigned and continued to construct and strengthen lines and mop up hot spots. Dozers will continue to build and strengthen control lines. Fire personnel will be extremely vigilant along the southern edge of the fire due to the predicted north winds associated with the cold front.

Grape Vine Creek Fire: This fire has five engines working to cool and control flare-ups from yesterday, along with mopping up hot spots near the perimeter. Crews will continue working near the east end of the fire to hold the current footprint of the fire.

WEATHER and FIRE BEHAVIOR:

The approaching cold front will change overall weather conditions. Temperatures will reach into the mid-70s, with winds out of the north ranging up to 15 mph. Relative humidity will range 16-20 percent as the overnight humidity recovery was up to 45 percent. Moisture of grass fuels increased 2 percent more than yesterday. Fire has the potential to move at ¼ to ¾ mph and burn 240 acres in an hour with flame lengths in tall thick grass up to 5 to 7 feet. Overall, burn conditions are markedly improved from yesterday's weather and the ability to fight fire on the ground is greatly enhanced.

MAJOR CLOSURES:

Sanford Yake on the Lake Meredith National Recreation Area, Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument, McBride, Mullinaw, Blue West, Plum Creek and Harbor Areas are closed. No road closures in or around the fire areas are in place at this time. Please contact the local sheriffs' websites for the most current roads update.

BURN BANS:

Burn Bans in effect for Hemphill, Roberts, Potter, Moore and Gray Counties. Please use the following link to see additional Texas counties with burn bans:

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/TexasBurnBans/>

Fire Information Line: (806) 370-2179 (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Email: 2024.TexasPanhandle@firenet.gov

Inciweb: Smokehouse Creek: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/txtxs-smokehouse-creek-fire>, Windy Deuce:

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/txtxs-windy-deuce-fire>, Grape

Vine Creek: [https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/txtxs-grape-vine-](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/txtxs-grape-vine-creek-fire)

[creek-fire](https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident-information/txtxs-grape-vine-creek-fire)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AllHazardsTFS>



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