

Wildfire Emergency Protocols for CEAs

1. Connect with your EOC or contact your County Judge/CEMC to assist with public information and education for citizens throughout the county or other appropriate measures.
2. The County EOC is the central emergency management headquarters in each county. CEAs should inform landowners, homeowners and businesses to contact the EOC to report a new wildfire and/or request emergency response including assistance regarding evacuation. Citizens may also call 2-1-1 for emergency, evacuation and sheltering information in their respective areas.
3. Inform your DEA each day during the incident about the well being of county staff, the current wildfire situation, and the roles that CEAs are playing in regards to response and recovery.
4. The County EOC may have received calls from livestock producers who seek assistance for feed, water and provide health services for displaced or injured livestock. This demand for State assistance may call for establishing a “Livestock Supply Point” led by Texas Animal Health Commission, Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Department of Agriculture. CEAs should inform their DEA to this kind of need in addition to following the State EM protocols that call for the County Judge/CEMC to draft language for requesting State assistance on an ICS Form 213 and send the signed 213 to their respective Disaster District Committee (see attachment). The language must be specific, describing the kind, amount and volume of resources needed.
5. Carcass disposal may also be necessary and the County Animal Issues Committee should have included a local plan for carcass disposal in the County Animal Issues Plan. In the event that local resources are not abundant enough to accomplish a need for large scale carcass disposal this demand may call for State assistance from TAHC, TCEQ and TxDOT. CEAs should inform their DEA about this kind of need in addition to following the State EM protocols that call for the County Judge/CEMC to draft language for requesting State assistance on an ICS Form 213 and send the signed 213 to their respective Disaster District Committee.
6. News Coverage – Kay Ledbetter, Communications Specialist at AgriLife Communications in Amarillo is serving as AgriLife Extension Public Information Officer (PIO) and represents our agency on the State of Texas Joint Information Center (JIC) with other state and federal agency PIOs. CEAs and DEAs during normal communications are asked to copy Kay skledbetter@ag.tamu.edu with relevant wildfire information for their respective counties and districts. Kay will feed this information into the State JIC.

7. CEAs should contact their FSA County Director to assist the FSA County Emergency Board (CEB) to complete a Loss Assessment Report (LAR) that is due at the State FSA offices within 24 hours of the incident. The LAR is a quick overview of losses to farmstead buildings and equipment, livestock, crops and fencing. The CEB will reconvene in about 2 weeks to provide greater detail on losses in preparation of a Disaster Assessment Report (DAR) of which is used to determine USDA Secretarial Disaster assistance.

8. Wildfire recovery is an important aspect of Extension education and materials are available at <http://texashelp.tamu.edu> . CEAs in counties with significant wildfire acreage are encouraged to engage appropriate range, wildlife and livestock specialists to plan educational programs and seek technical assistance and spokespersons immediately following the event. See attachments below for a list of specialists on our Wildfires Incident Resource Team.

9. In the event that livestock are displaced into mixed ownership environments there may be a need to request an inspector from Texas and Southwestern Cattleraisers Association for animal ownership and brand inspection services. If this is a need please follow the State EM protocols that call for the County Judge/CEMC to draft language for requesting State assistance on an ICS Form 213 and send the signed 213 to the respective Disaster District Committee.

Attachments for use in Emergencies

- 1) ICS Form 213
- 2) Disaster District Committee Contacts
- 3) CEA EM Responsibilities and Acronyms
- 4) IRT Members – Drought, Wildfires & Animal Issues IRTs