


# Protecting Texas from Wildfires


Key bills enhance resilience, improve wildfire response



## Texas' Wildfire Risks are Increasing

 Last year Texas endured the largest wildfire in recorded history. **The Panhandle Wildfires burned over 1.2 million acres of land**, inflicting nearly \$125 million in economic losses.

 A 2024 report by the Office of the State Climatologist at Texas A&M University found that the state's **wildfire season will grow longer** as greater portions of the state become susceptible to wildfire risks.

 Data from the First Street Foundation reveals that **nearly 9 million properties – 70% of all properties in this state – have some risk** of being affected by a wildfire over the next 30 years.

## The 2025 Texas Legislature Passed a Comprehensive Slate of Reforms to Improve Wildfire Prevention & Response Capacity

### Planning & Preparedness

**SB 34 by Sen. Sparks & Rep. King**

Requires that the Texas A&M Forest Service study the status and condition of fuel loading in wildfire risk zones in this state and the corresponding risk of wildfire to the residents, homes, businesses and ecology of this state. Requires that at least 10 percent of Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program funding be allocated towards departments in areas of the state with a high risk for large wildfires.

### Powerline Prevention

**HB 144 & HB 145 by Rep. King & Sen. Schwertner**

Requires that each electric utility submit a distribution pole plan to the Public Utility Commission for the management and inspection of poles within their system (HB 144). Requires that each electric utility that owns a transmission or distribution facility in a wildfire risk area develop a wildfire mitigation plan (HB 145).

### Funding Wildfire Response

**HB 500 by Rep. Bonnen & Sen. Huffman**

Appropriates \$125 million to the Texas A&M Forest Service for wildfire suppression activities. Allocates \$257 million to the Forest Service for the purchase and maintenance of a wildfire response aircraft fleet.

### Oilfield Inspections

**HB 143 by Rep. King & Sen. Hancock**

Requires that the Railroad Commission notify the Public Utility Commission and an oil or gas well operator of any condition that does not meet fire safety standards discovered during a well inspection.

### Firefighting Inventories

**SB 767 by Sen. Sparks & Rep. Fairly**

Requires that the Texas A&M Forest Service create and maintain a comprehensive, real-time database of the statewide inventory of equipment for fighting wildfires.

### Prescribed Burn Capacity

**HB 2563 by Rep. Ashby & Sen. Kolkhorst**

Creates a self-insurance program for certified prescribed burn managers.

For questions,  
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