



Office of the Chancellor

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

February 29, 2024

Dear Members of the Texas A&M System Community,

Our thoughts are with those affected this week by one of the largest wildfires ever recorded in Texas. As the blaze continues to rage this morning, first-responders with The Texas A&M University System and Texas A&M University are there in the Panhandle working hard to help our fellow Texans – and their animals – who are suffering.

Chief Nim Kidd of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, one of our agencies, is heading the state's effort at the direction of Gov. Greg Abbott, and Texas A&M System entities are providing much of the help in the stricken areas.

Response operations by four Texas A&M System agencies and A&M's Vet School include:

- **Texas A&M Forest Service:** The Texas A&M Forest Service has deployed six Single Engine Air Tankers; members of the All Hazards Incident Management Team; six Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System strike teams, which together comprise more than 94 personnel and over 33 fire engines.
- **Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service:** TEEX has deployed 71 members of Texas A&M Task Force 1 who are capable of 24-hour operations for up to 14 days; 47 members Texas Task Force 2 who are capable of 12-hour operations for the same period; and additional personnel from the Texas A&M Public Works Response Team. Eight canine search specialists and 12 dogs also are deployed with TEEX to the affected areas.
- **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension teams have set up animal supply points to ensure livestock and pets are sheltered and have food and critical care.
- **Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team (VET):** The VET is providing veterinary care in support of TEEX's dogs, as well as to animals owned by residents. As of last night, nine members of the team and five Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students had left Bryan-College Station with more leaving soon. The VET is comprised of faculty, staff and students from the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, as well as volunteers from the veterinary profession.
- **Texas Division of Emergency Management:** Emergency response personnel are supporting local officials, and other TDEM personnel are on-site in affected areas to help in the impacted communities.

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Whenever a disaster is declared in Texas, the Texas A&M System is there coordinating and conducting the response. This disaster is no different. I am so proud of each member of our broader Texas A&M System family who regularly gives so selflessly when others are in peril. I'm certain you will join me in extending gratitude to them and to their families.

Please join me in supporting and praying for the victims of the wildfires and for the safety of our responders.

As always, thanks for your support,

Sincerely,



John Sharp
Chancellor