

# TEXAS INTRASTATE FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM (TIFMAS)



**Carter Johnson  
and J.J. Wittig**  
**ESD Fire Chiefs**  
**State and Deputy State  
Coordinators**

# HISTORY

- Created by state law in 2007
- First deployed 2008
- Operated through the Texas A&M Forest Service (TAMFS)
- Funded and approved by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM)

# HISTORY

- Guided by a Stakeholder Group
- Operated by local fire department personnel serving as Resource Coordinators
- Staffed by local firefighters



# **ALL RISK – ALL HAZARD INTEGRATED STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID RESPONSE**



**Hurricanes**

**Wildfires**

**Tornados**

**Floods**

**Fire Dept.  
Support**

**Other**



# **ROLES**



- **Local Fire Departments are the Initial and Extended Attack Forces**
- **Texas A&M Forest Service reinforces local fire departments**

# ROLES

- **TIFMAS provides a “ready reserve” for local departments through the state during emergencies**
- **Federal & State agencies reinforce TAMFS**

# PARTICIPANTS (SEPTEMBER 2024)

## DEPARTMENTS

53 Volunteer

101 Combination

120 Career

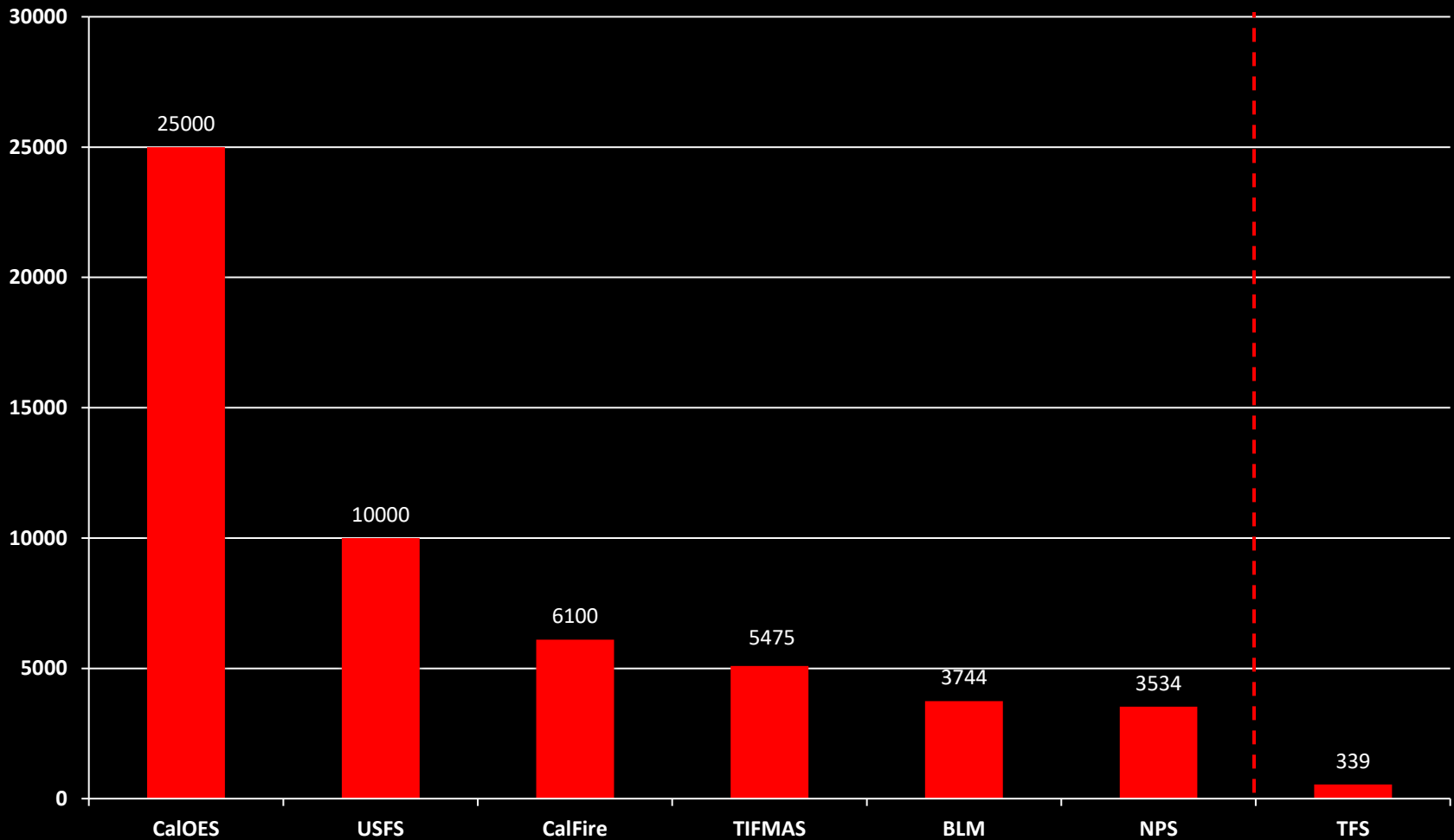
## MEMBERS

10,989 All-Hazard

5,475 Wildland

# WILDLAND FIREFIGHTERS

## Credentialed/Authorized FTE Firefighters





# ALL HAZARDS

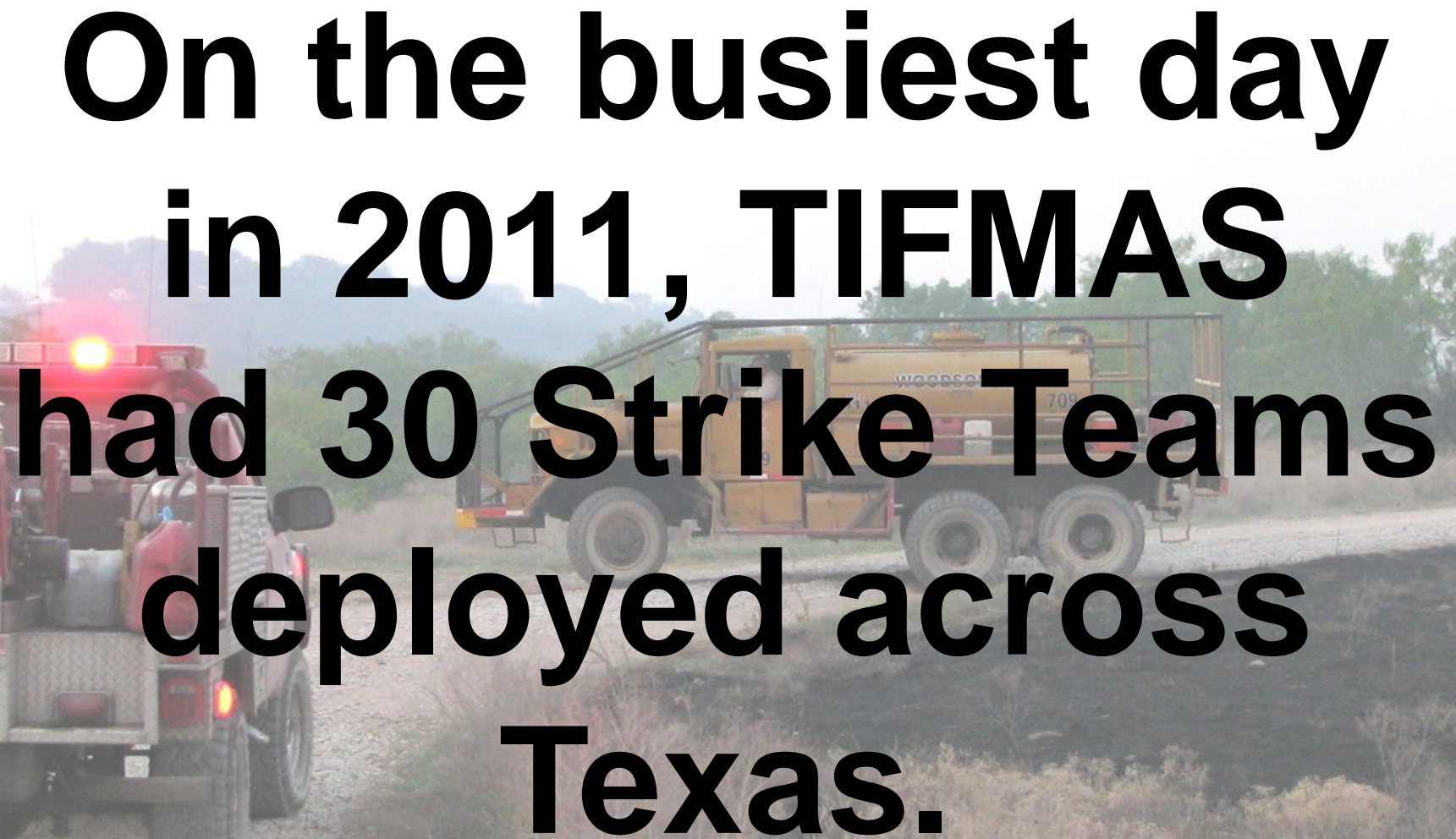
**SFFMA  
Accredited  
FF I/II or  
Advanced**

**TCFP  
Basic FF**



# **CAPABILITIES (WILDLAND)**

**On the busiest day  
in 2011, TIFMAS  
had 30 Strike Teams  
deployed across  
Texas.**

The background image shows a scene on a dirt road in a rural or wildland area. On the left, the rear of a red fire truck is visible, with its emergency lights flashing. In the center, a yellow utility truck, possibly a water tender or maintenance vehicle, is driving away from the viewer. The truck has "WOODSON" and the number "708" visible on its side. The surrounding landscape is dry with sparse vegetation and trees in the distance under a hazy sky.



# CAPABILITIES (HARVEY)

**TIFMAS deployed  
985 personnel and  
296 pieces of  
equipment to the  
Texas Gulf coast.**



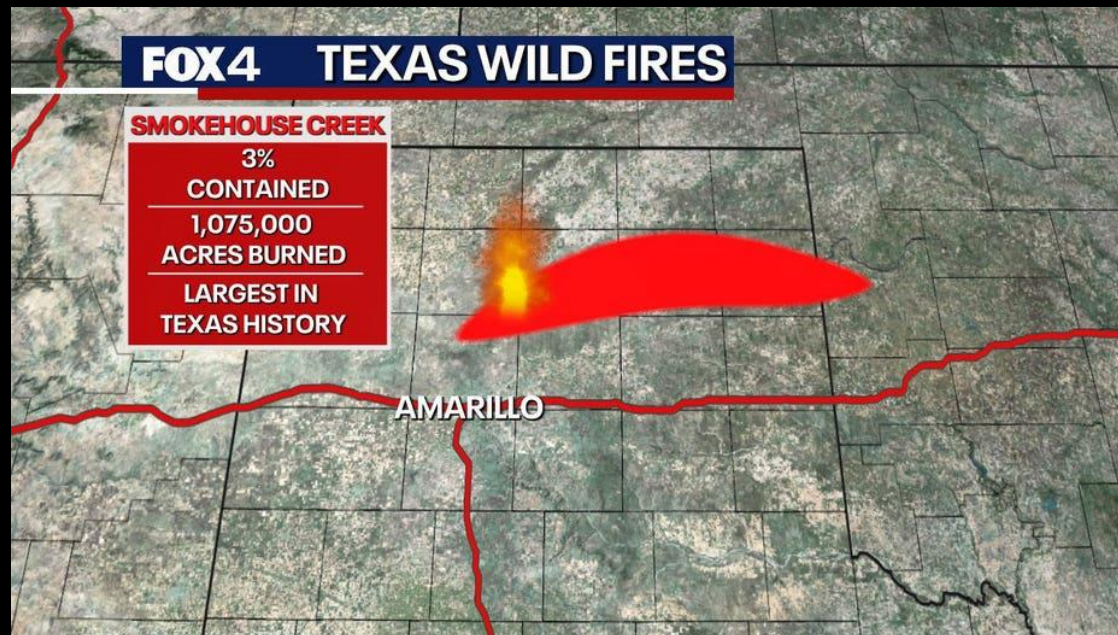
# Response

(as of Dec 09, 2024)

## 2024

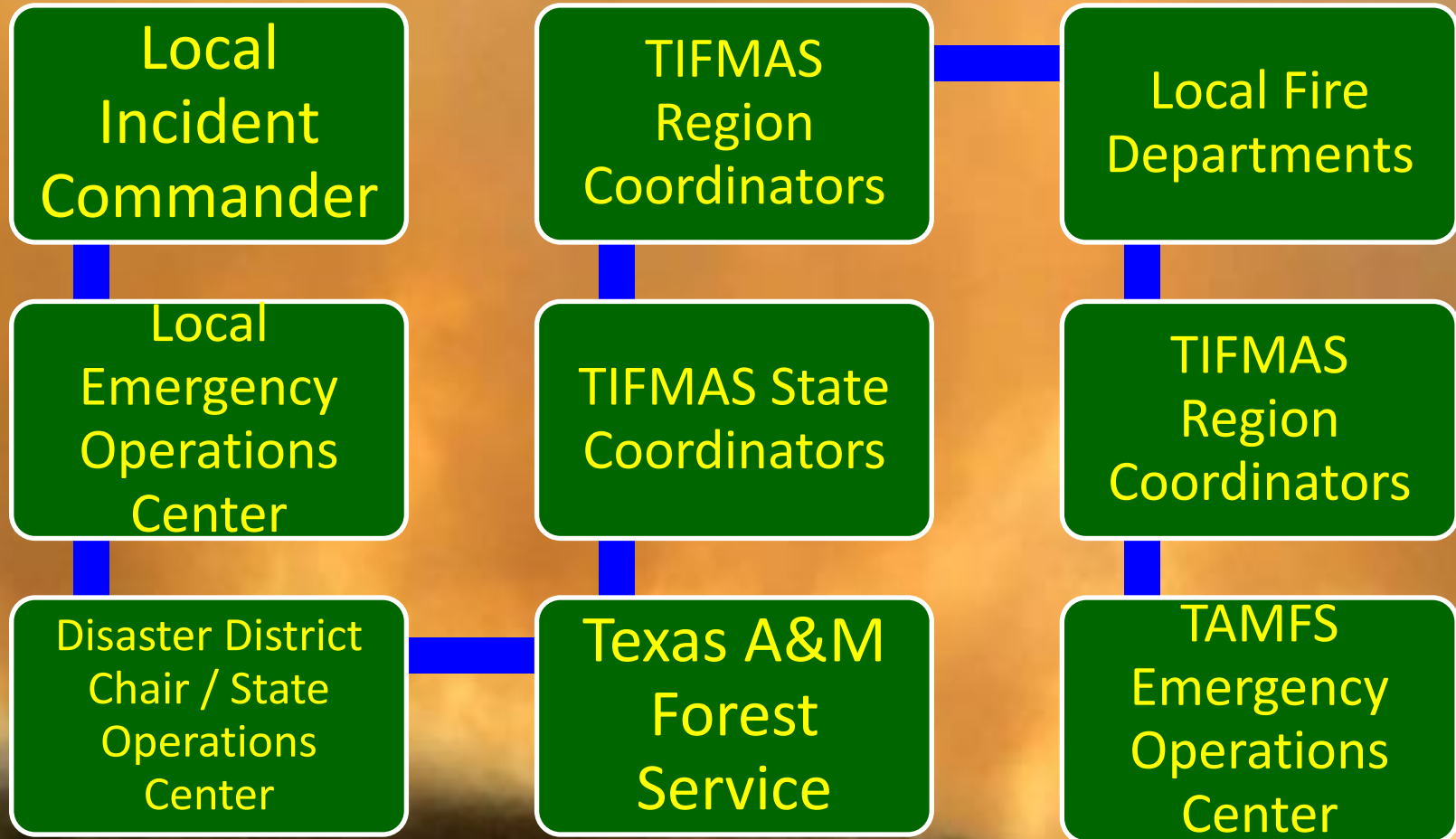
2,467 Personnel Deployed

- 1,518 Wildfires
- 949 Other (Border, Eclipse, Weather, EMAC)
- 483 Engines





# ACTIVATION



# TIFMAS Region Coordinators



**STATE COORDINATOR**  
Chief JJ Wittig  
Travis County ESD 3  
Oak Hill FD  
SCTIFMAS@tfs.tamu.edu  
512-569-8380



**DEPUTY STATE COORDINATOR**  
Chief Carter Johnson  
Montgomery County ESD 6  
Porter Fire  
SDSCTIFMAS@tfs.tamu.edu  
832-986-2426



**REGION 7**  
Battalion Chief Bradley Reese  
City of Odessa Fire Rescue  
TIFMASregion7@tfs.tamu.edu  
432-331-6526



**REGION 1**  
Deputy Chief Jacob Ohlert  
Amarillo FD  
TIFMASregion1@tfs.tamu.edu  
806-433-0972



**REGION 2**  
Asst. Chief Scott Eager  
Roanoke Fire/Rescue  
TIFMASregion2@tfs.tamu.edu  
817-822-8991



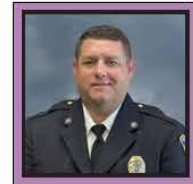
**REGION 3**  
Chief Michael Brown  
Nacogdoches FD  
TIFMASregion3@tfs.tamu.edu  
936-559-2578



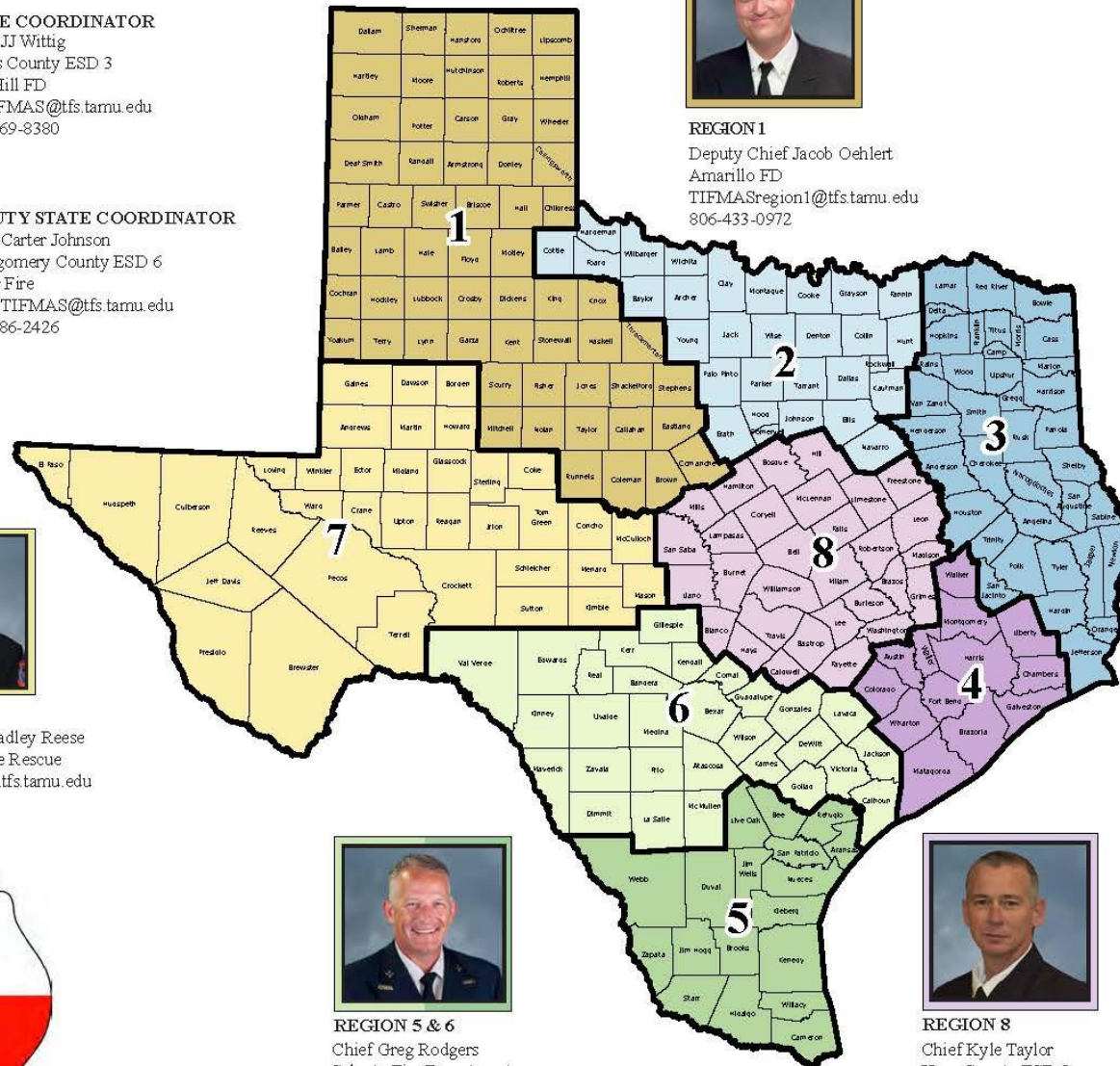
**REGION 5 & 6**  
Chief Greg Rodgers  
Scherz Fire Department  
TIFMASregion6@tfs.tamu.edu  
979-229-6625



**REGION 8**  
Chief Kyle Taylor  
Hays County ESD 5  
Kyle Fire Department  
TIFMASregion8@tfs.tamu.edu  
512-657-0238



**REGION 4**  
Deputy Chief Ray Vaden  
Montgomery County ESD 6  
Porter Fire  
TIFMASregion4@tfs.tamu.edu  
713-885-8366





# GRANTS

For departments not eligible for 2604



\$800,000  
Apparatus

\$200,000  
Training

# APPARATUS



Type III



Tactical Tender



Type VI



# Apparatus

- 63 TIFMAS trucks in the system

- Type III-25

- Type VI-34

- Tactical Tender-4

6 awarded awaiting delivery





- Departments with 1 Engine
- Departments with 2 Engines



TFS EOC 11/2/2022

# HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Individual  
Departments

Partnering  
Departments



# WHY PARTICIPATE?

- What kind of real life, hands-on training do your personnel receive for major disasters / incidents?
- IF you could pay for that kind of training, how much do you think it would cost?
- If a disaster or significant incident occurs, what real life experiences do your personnel have to fall back on?



# RECENT CHANGES

## Deployment Requirements Effective January 1, 2024

- Type VI Engines require at least an ENGB(t)
- Strike Team Leader (not trainee) required as STEN
- Water Tenders require at least an ENGB(t)
- Moderate Pack Test required for in state deployments  
Arduous Pack Test required for out of state deployments
- Minimum deployment commitment changed to 7 days excluding travel

## Deployment Requirements Effective January 1, 2025

- Work Capacity (Pack) Test at level prescribed in NWCG PMS 310-1

# TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS MANUAL

## Requirements Effective January 1, 2025

- Engine Boss (ENGB) Taskbooks are now reviewed by the Incident Qualifications Certification Council (IQCC)
- RT-130 and WCT must be completed annually between February 15 and May 15
- TAMFS now signs off in the Agency Certification block
- After certifying as FFT2 (S-130/S-190/L-180), minimum of 10 operational periods on a wildfire or prescribed fire must be documented *prior* to opening the next operational position taskbook (FFT1, ICT5, DZOP, ENOP)
- Taskbooks can be open for six years after date of initiation (or date of first evaluation if significant time has passed since initiation)
- Submissions are via Survey123 if in the Red Card transition process, otherwise email

# DEPLOYMENT

- Deployments are for a minimum of seven (7) work days but 14 days are preferred. This can be extended another seven (7) days based on response needs and with home agency approval.  
\*Travel days not included.
- Wildland deployments require personnel to be self-sufficient for three (3) days (tents, food/MREs, etc.)

# REIMBURSEMENTS

All Deployments are reimbursed  
“Portal-to-Portal”

- Labor reimbursed for all hours from time deployment begins to time returned to home unit
- Vehicles are reimbursed based on actual hours worked (NO fuel or other maintenance items)



# REIMBURSEMENTS

- Includes up to two hours prior to deployment for preparation
- Includes up to two hours after return for returning equipment to service
- Includes “Backfill” for normal shift when a minimum staffing policy is in place

# REIMBURSEMENTS

Resources returning to their home base with regularly scheduled shift the day of return or the day following their return:

- Additional backfill not to exceed 24 hours will be granted
- Ensures proper rest and safety for firefighters

# REIMBURSEMENTS

- Per Diem follows local agency guidelines
- The TIFMAS Business Manual provides a model guideline if the local agency does not have one
- Now includes a 90-day deadline from demobilization to submit reimbursement



# REIMBURSEMENTS

**APPARATUS**  
(per current FEMA Schedule)

**MEMBERS**

**Career-Actual Cost**

**Volunteer-\$14/hr**

# REIMBURSEMENTS

Deployment



```
graph TD; A[Deployment] --> B[Reimbursement Request]; B --> C[TDEM Review]; C --> D[Governor's Audit]; D --> E[Payment (goal is within 90 days)]
```

The diagram illustrates a five-step reimbursement process. It begins with 'Deployment', followed by 'Reimbursement Request', 'TDEM Review', 'Governor's Audit', and finally 'Payment (goal is within 90 days)'. Each step is contained within a red rectangular box with rounded corners and a white border. The boxes are arranged in a descending staircase pattern from top-left to bottom-right. Grey downward-pointing arrows connect the bottom-right corner of one box to the top-right corner of the subsequent box, indicating the flow of the process.

Reimbursement Request

TDEM Review

Governor's Audit

Payment (goal is within 90 days)

# RECENT SUCCESSES

- Incremental adjustments to qualifications
- Adjustment of Work Capacity Test to match national standard
- Prepositioning to aid in the reduction of wildland fire intensity and damage
- All-Hazards responses keep resources available and engaged while providing enhanced services to communities



# CONTINUING CHALLENGES

- Increased qualification requirements causing a constriction in deployable resources (STEN, ENGB, WCT)
- All-Hazards Qualifications (saw work, team lead/paperwork)
- Apparatus funding and build schedule
- Workers' Compensation

# **2025 TIFMAS Symposium**

**September 2-6  
Waco, TX**



**TIFMAS**

**Texas Firefighters**

**Helping**

**Texas Firefighters**

**[www.TIFMAS.org](http://www.TIFMAS.org)**



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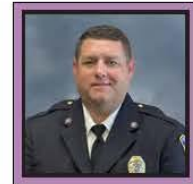
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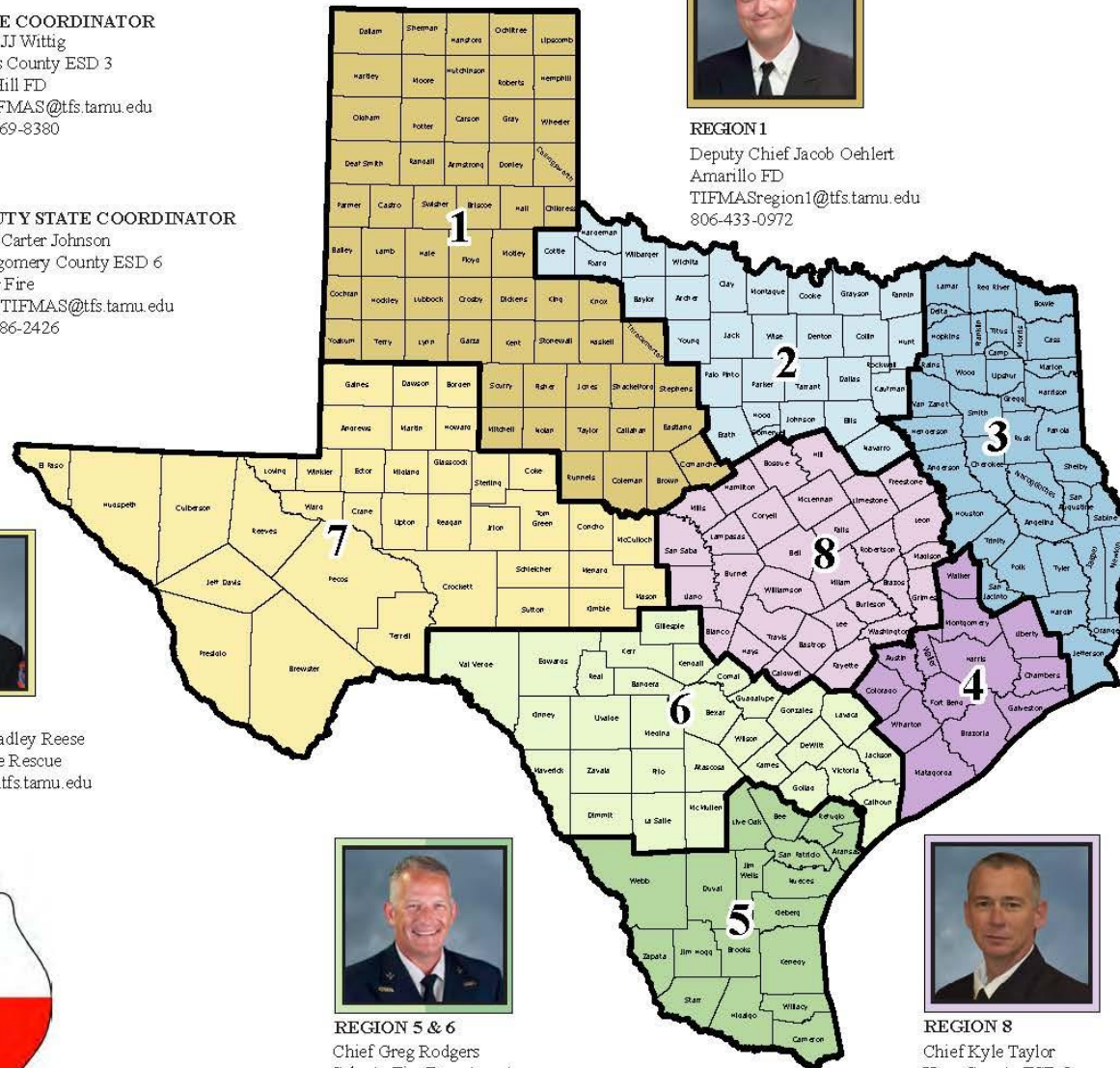
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Contact us for help or questions:

[TIFMASLeadership@tfs.tamu.edu](mailto:TIFMASLeadership@tfs.tamu.edu)