



## CONNECT

### NEWSROOM: TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE OPENS EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR WILDFIRE DISASTER DECLARATION

August 17, 2023

#### **Texas A&M Forest Service opens emergency grant applications for wildfire disaster declaration**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas – Emergency grant applications are now open for volunteer fire departments included in Governor Abbott's wildfire disaster declaration.

"Volunteer firefighters are our first line of defense against wildfires in Texas," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service Fire Chief. "During this active summer season, these firefighters are responding to wildfires daily. They work in extreme conditions that not only challenge them physically but also cause their equipment to become worn and damaged."

The disaster declaration is in response to wildfires that began on July 24, 2023, which "pose an imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury or loss of life or property" in the 191 counties listed.

In addition to preventing and responding to wildfires, Texas A&M Forest Service is here to help firefighters by administering emergency grants through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program.

The emergency grants fund essential equipment that needs repairing and replacement damaged during response efforts. Essential equipment can be repaired or replaced for 100 percent of the cost up to \$15,000.

Apparatus replacement, or replacement of water tenders, large and small brush trucks or large and small truck chassis can be replaced for 90 percent of the cost up to various amounts, the maximum being \$240,000.

"Having the proper equipment to respond to wildfires is essential," said Moorehead. "Emergency grants for repair and replacement equipment are expedited to provide assistance as quickly as possible."

The budget allocated for declared disaster emergency grants is 10 percent of the Rural VFD Assistance Program budget, nearly \$1.7 million this fiscal year.

A high volume of wildfires is expected to continue through next Sunday for the eastern two-thirds of Texas due to underlying drought, critically dry fuel and periods of elevated to near critical fire weather.

Texans should stay wildfire aware and immediately call 911 if a wildfire is spotted.

Read Governor Abbott's original issue of the Wildfire Disaster Declaration in August 2023 here: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/governor-abbott-issues-wildfire-disaster-declaration-in-august-2023>.

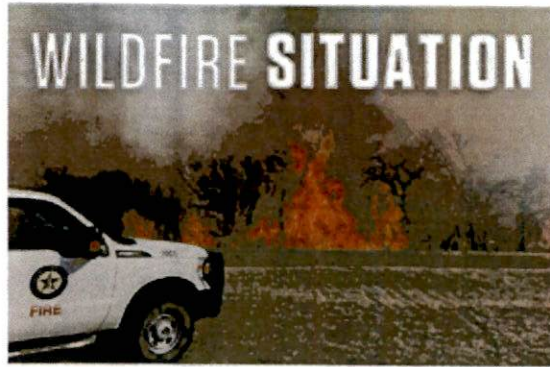
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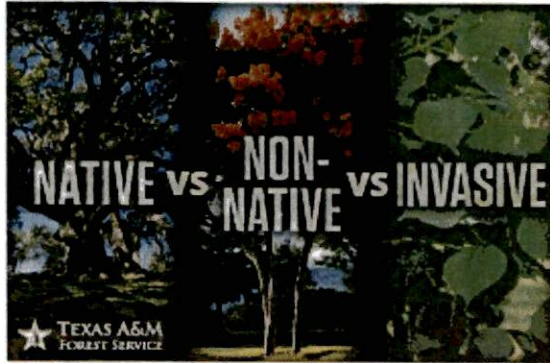
## FIRE DANGER: CURRENT SITUATION

Find current wildfire activity, Texas fire potential, news and more.



## CAREERS

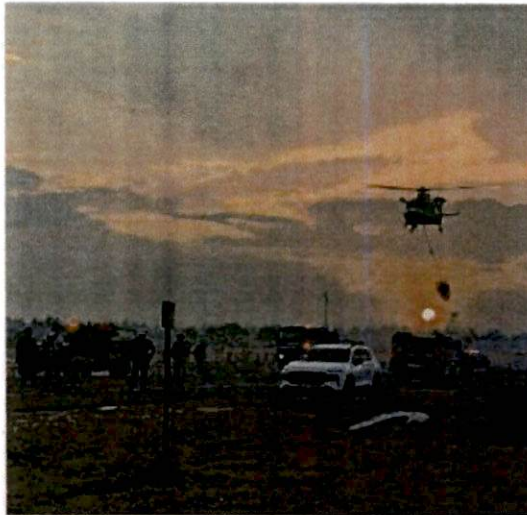
Texas A&M Forest Service offers careers that can take you anywhere from a wildfire line defending lives and homes, to a forest protecting and conserving Texas natural resources to a computer working on a new application to create solutions for Texans across the state.



## NATIVE VS. NON-NATIVE VS. INVASIVE SPECIES

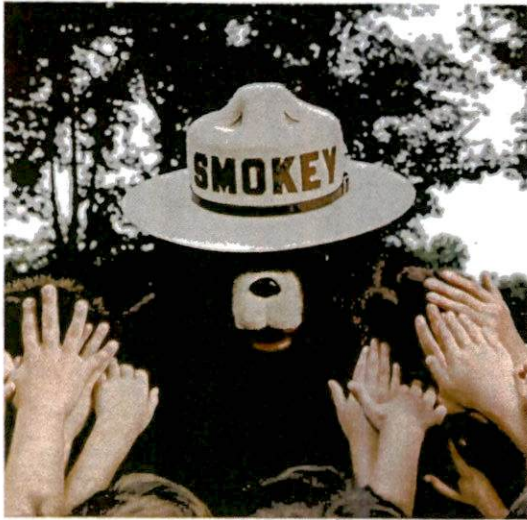
The tree landscape in Texas is made up by a variety of species. From ponderosa pines in West Texas to oaks in Central Texas to dogwoods in East Texas, trees play a vital role in our ecosystem and provide countless benefits. But, what about species that cause negative impacts – invasive species?

### NEWSROOM



8/16/2023 7:25:00 PM

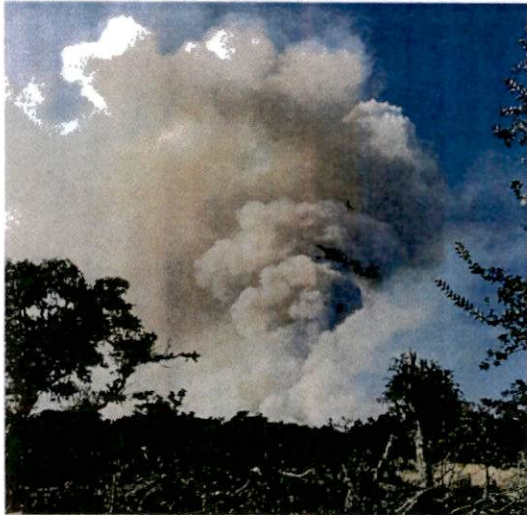
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8/8/2023 3:00:00 PM

**Celebrate Smokey Bear's 79th Birthday, only you can prevent wildfires**

Texas A&M Forest Service encourages Texans to celebrate Smokey Bear's 79th birthday today by being extremely cautious with all outdoor activities that create heat or sparks.



8/7/2023 3:50:00 PM

**State Wildfire Preparedness Level raised to Level 4 as high fire danger is forecast this week**

Texas A&M Forest Service has raised the State Wildfire Preparedness Level to Level 4 due to the recent increase in wildfire activity across the state and the growing potential for wildfires to become more severe, making them harder to control.

We have been protecting and sustaining forests, trees and related natural resources since 1915. We offer programs and services to help you make the most of

your land for generations to  
come.

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