



## Windy Deuce Fire Update Thursday, February 29, 2024

**Size:** 142,000

**Containment:** 30%

**Start Date:** Monday, February 26, 2024

**Cause:** Under Investigation

The Windy Deuce fire is currently burning in Hutchinson County. Texas A&M Forest Service is currently working in unified command with the city of Fritch, Hutchinson County, and National Park Service. Crews are working to protect public lives, properties, and slow fire spread in high wind conditions.

**Yesterday:** Crews continued to construct containment line around the perimeter of the fire with heavy equipment. Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS) were on scene making water and fire-retardant drops to aid in suppression of intense fire. Night operations consisted of one team of engines patrolling impacted residential areas to allow other local and state resources to rest and rehabilitate equipment.

**Today:** Early morning snow showers have allowed the opportunity for heavy equipment crews and engines to get into the interior zones of the fire and work on suppression tactics and construction of containment lines. However, this window of reprieve will not last long due to high winds returning and precipitation chances reducing over the course of the day. Aircraft remains available in Dumas and Abilene if needed. Crews will work diligently throughout the day and take advantage of the moisture increase.

**Weather and Fire Behavior:** Light snow showers in the morning have increased the moisture and relative humidity however wind speeds reduce that moisture availability throughout the day resulting in moderate fire behavior. Any hot spots remaining will reduce moisture in surrounding areas allowing for fire activity in the afternoon.

**Evacuations:** In the town of Fritch, the following neighborhoods have been evacuated: Alibates, McBride, Mullinaw, Harbory Bay, Chisolm Trail, Arroyo Grande, and Sage Brush. The City of Borger has opened two shelter locations: Church of Christ and Fairlands Baptist Church. In the City of Fritch, the shelter at Celebration Family Church is reduced in capacity. Evacuation for Double Diamond, Arrowhead Addition, and Maverick have been lifted.

**Damages/Injuries:** Structures have been confirmed lost at this time. This is an evolving situation and due to the complexity of the fire, there are no details on the number and type of structures that have been destroyed/damaged at this time. There are no reported injuries at this time.

**Closures:** No closures

### Fire Information

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