

## INITIAL EMERGENCY AND SITUATION REPORT

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to advise the State of Texas, nearby jurisdictions that may be affected, and jurisdictions that may provide resources under a mutual aid agreement of an incident that has become a major emergency or disaster.

2. **DATE/ TIME:** March 16, 2009/ 10:00 AM  
**FROM** Williamson County, Texas  
**TO:** DPS District 6 C, DDC Chairperson

**SUBJECT:** INITIAL EMERGENCY REPORT

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Severe drought

DATE & TIME OF OCCURRENCE: May, 2008 and ongoing.

DESCRIPTION: The County of Williamson, Texas, is facing significant threats to life, health and property due to:

1. Severe and prolonged drought conditions.
2. The imminent threat of continued severe drought conditions.
3. The inability of Williamson County to fully assess drought related damages and to formulate and promulgate a comprehensive plan for relief, mitigation and recovery from the past present and future effects of severe drought conditions.

AREA AFFECTED: Williamson County, Texas

RESPONSE ACTIONS UNDERWAY: Preliminary damage assessments of losses to the agriculture economy, consultations with agriculture centric local agencies and advisors, informational meetings with landowners, producers, lenders and other stakeholders. A Declaration of Disaster was issued by County Judge on March 16, 2009.

ASSISTANCE REQUIRED: State and Federal assistance for damage assessment, mitigation strategies, financial assistance and recovery planning.

POINT OF CONTACT INFORMATION: Williamson County Office of Emergency Management, Jarred Thomas, Coordinator, 303 MLK, Georgetown, Texas 78626, (512) 943-3747.

**SITUATION REPORT: March 16, 2009**

- 2008 Hay production was estimated at 20% of normal.
- Virtually no local hay with sufficient nutrients available. Imported hay is becoming rare and expensive.

- An known number of animal carcasses are a threat to environment and expensive to remove.
- An estimated 75% of stock tanks and ponds are dry or contain water of unacceptable quality for livestock survival.
- Lack of 2009 spring rainfall is expected to eliminate or drastically reduce the production of row crops and pasture restoration.
- Cattle sales market is extremely depressed due to unusually high numbers of units being sold.
- Cattle sold are almost entirely being bought as market units for meat production. Very few animals will be available for herd restocking.
- U.S. Drought Monitor predicts less than normal rainfall through April, 2009.
- U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook March 5 – May 2009 depicts a "Drought on-going some improvement."
- U.S. Drought Monitor March 10, 2009 Williamson County is experiencing "D4 Drought – Exceptional"