Texas Fire Potential Update

February 18th – 24th

Pictured here is a portion of the February 16th Channing Fire which burned about 7500 acres Saturday afternoon in Hartley County near the community of Channing. Strong sustained wind in the 30-40 mph range (Dalhart observations) was able to push fire through grazed rangeland with below normal grass loading.

Photo submitted by John Fugitt
Recent rainfall trends have favored the northeast quarter of the state. Last Monday did bring modest rainfall amounts with prolonged duration to parts of the Rolling Plains, Hill Country and Southern Plains.
The ERC trend for the High Plains shows the accelerated drying that occurred last week with the above normal temperatures and a couple of nights with poor RH recovery.

Expect ERC values to trend down this week on the High Plains with the current forecast temperatures along with several days of increased moisture. I would expect to see this same trend in the Rolling Plains and Southern Plains where ERC values have been trending slightly above normal. The Trans Pecos is also trending above normal and will have the best chance of remaining above normal through Sunday with the current forecast. Though the Trans Pecos ERC trend could remain above normal, expectations are that it will not climb significantly.
100 Hour FM has been improving in the High Plains and expanding in the Hill Country and Trans Pecos. 25\textsuperscript{th} percentile (yellow) 100 Hour FM will struggle to remain on the map through this week. The exception will be the lower elevations of the Trans Pecos region where 25\textsuperscript{th} percentile 100 Hour FM will likely remain.
Fire Potential February 18\textsuperscript{th} through February 24\textsuperscript{th}

• \textbf{Low drying potential} for most of the state this week with increased chances for moisture forecast early and late in the week.

• \textbf{Fuel Dryness levels} do not look to align with \textbf{fire weather levels} this week to produce much more than low initial attack potential... possibly moderate potential in the Trans Pecos. There is potential for strong winds on the Plains for Saturday but moisture may accompany or precede the forecast wind.

• Please stay current with your local \textbf{NWS fire weather forecast} https://www.weather.gov/ and the \textbf{TFS fire weather forecast} http://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/PredictiveServices/Outlooks/texas_fire_weather_outlook.pdf