Texas Fire Potential Update
April 8th through 14th

Fire Weather forecast elements...RH, Temperature, and Wind for Wednesday afternoon.
Outlook for the next 7 days

High impact fire weather will spread across the High Plains and portions of western Texas on Wednesday.

Significant fire potential will be moderate on the High Plains where cured grasses still dominate the landscape and fuel dryness levels are dry but below critically dry levels.

Initial attack potential increases to high for a large portion of west Texas Wednesday as ignitions can find pockets of tall cured grass even in the transition green counties of the Rolling and Southern Plains.

A cold front will drop in from the north Wednesday night and Thursday morning to improve fire weather and lower fire potential. Elevated to critical fire weather will remain in the Trans Pecos on Thursday.
Transitional Green grass will limit significant fire potential on Wednesday when high impact fire weather is present. Any rangeland in these areas that has been moderately grazed will be mostly green. This short green grass will slow or stop fire spread. Ungrazed range will still have enough cured grass in the profile to support fire spread. But coverage and continuity of tall cured grass in the transition Counties is broken up and unlikely to support significant fire activity on Wednesday.
Here is an example of short green grass and tall cured grass side by side west of Childress. Childress County is included in the Transition Green Counties.
Weekend rain has improved and maintained moisture levels as seen on yesterday’s observed fuel dryness. The exception is the Trans Pecos where Dry Fuel Dryness levels are increasing in coverage. Even though Dry fuels are expanding in the Trans Pecos, Significant Fires are conditional without lightning ignitions in higher elevations.
60 Day Percent of Normal Rainfall Trends

60 day rainfall deficits have improved with the recent weekend rainfall. The April 7\textsuperscript{th} map does not include significant rainfall that occurred over the last 24 hours in central and southeast Texas.
ERC Seasonal Trends

Fire potential on Wednesday will be higher in the High Plains than in the Trans Pecos even though the Trans Pecos is drier. Ignitions needed to produce fire activity in the Trans Pecos are highly conditional on lightning activity.

http://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/PredictiveServices/Fuels/TXERCmap.htm

1 PSA Above Normal   1 PSA Near Normal   12 PSA Below Normal
High impact fire weather will increase fire potential Wednesday

High impact fire weather combined with moderate fuel dryness will produce a **moderate potential** for **significant fires** in the 30% outline. Cured grasses still dominate the landscape in this area.

High impact weather in the 10% outline will produce **high potential** for **initial attack** activity. Transitional green grasses, level terrain with good road networks, or conditional requirements for ignitions will keep significant fire potential low in the 10% areas.

Probability of Significant Wildland Fire or Southern Great Plains Wildfire Outbreak

Approximate Threat Area: Low-Mod Threat Wed 4/8

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This outlook is an experimental decision support tool produced in collaboration with…

...and is strictly intended to reflect forecast probabilities of significant wildlandfire and “firestorm” conditions.