Pattern Change on the Way
Increasing Thunderstorms Chances Next Weekend and Next Week

An upper low will strengthen over the western US during the upcoming weekend and early next week.
This will lead to increased chances for thunderstorms across much of the Central and Southern Plains.
Keep an eye on the forecast over the next several days as we refine chances for strong storms and heavy rainfall.
Daily TFS Wildfire Response by PSA for September

Wildfire response has been well below normal through September.

This below normal wildfire response trend is likely to continue through October.
Northeast Texas had 7 responses in September. Normal responses for northeast Texas would be 45. Normal September acres burned would be about 375 acres. Only 75 acres burned this September.
Normal October Fires and Acres by PSA

Normal October Statewide Response: 90 Fires/925 Acres

Here are the normal wildfire response for the state and by PSA for October.
7 Day Estimated Rainfall and 7 Day Forecast Rainfall

Most of the rainfall deficits across the state have been erased or significantly reduced through September. There are some 30 day deficits in the northern High Plains….same area showing little rain on the 7 day observed. Forecasts show a deep trough impacting the state late week bringing rain to the High Plains.

Forecast rainfall through next Tuesday AM
The 30 Day percent of normal rainfall map shows most of the trending above normal rainfall.

Some deficits appear in the northern High Plains but other moisture indicators like ERC and Fuel Dryness are trending below the 50th percentile or above normal moisture. The shorter days and cooler temperatures we now see do not support the level of drying we saw back in August. Going forward, the 60 day percent of normal rainfall image will provide better guidance in identifying areas that could support significant fire activity.
Seasonal ERC Trends

0 PSA above normal  
0 PSA near normal  
14 PSA below normal

http://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/PredictiveServices/Fuels/erc_map.htm
30 Day 1000 Hour Fuel Moisture Trends

October fire activity is normally dependent on carrying over late summer fuel moisture deficits into the fall. The fall of 2015 is a good example. The 2018 summer moisture deficits have been erased during September. Comparing 1000 hour FM from September 1st to the current October 1st 1000 hour FM shows the improvement.