

TFS WEATHER BRIEF

Thursday, February 15

WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS: FEBRUARY 15-19

- 1. BRIEF ELEVATED FIRE WX PANHANDLE TODAY**
- 2. UNSEASONABLY WARM STATEWIDE TODAY; TURNING COLDER FRI-SAT**
- 3. INCREASED RAIN CHANCES TRANS-PECOS EASTWARD FRI-SAT**
- 4. POSSIBLE ELEVATED FIRE WX NORTHWEST PANHANDLE SUN; GREATER ELEVATED FIRE WX RISK WEST TX MON**

Today: Brief elevated fire weather will exist over the Panhandle ahead of the next polar front with the best chances occurring north of I-40. Sustained west winds will exceed 15 mph over a broad area of West TX but RH values will run 10-20% higher as a mid cloud layer deepens. Light rain showers will spread into far western TX and portions of the southern High Plains by evening with amounts under 0.10 inch. It will be unseasonably mild statewide!

Fri: No fire weather concerns will exist as moisture streams from the TP to northern parts of the state with a stripe of precipitation yielding 0.10 to 0.25 inch totals. It will turn sharply cooler behind an advancing cold front, scheduled into South TX by nightfall before stalling.

DAYS 3-5: FEB 17-19

Sat-Sun: Periods of rain will persist over most areas behind the cold front with the High Plains, parts of the TP and far southern areas remaining dry. Another 0.05 to 0.25 inch will fall with the heavier amounts over Northeast TX; the cloud cover will keep the state unseasonably cool with the Lower Valley remaining warmer south of the boundary. The frontal boundary will move northward as a warm front Sun leading to more rain along and north of its location with North TX most affected. Possible elevated fire weather conditions will return to the northwest Panhandle Sun afternoon as southwesterly winds increase; higher RH will preclude a wider risk.

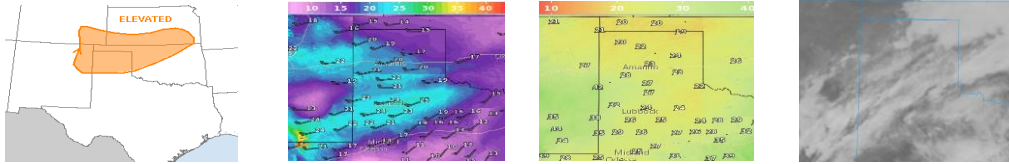
Mon: Warmer temperatures will rule across the state with areas of rain possible along and east of Hwy 281. Elevated to near critical fire weather will extend from the Panhandle to the Trans-Pecos as westerly winds eclipse 15 mph and RH values dip below 20%.

EXTENDED OUTLOOK: Next Week

A new cold front will enter the Panhandle Tue morning then shift southward across the state through Wed night. The front will encounter rich, deep layer moisture and produce moderate to heavy rainfall totals Tue afternoon through Wed over the eastern half. Localized flooding will be greatest over Northeast TX where rainfall rates exceed 1"/hr at times and totals in excess of 2 inches are measured. Wetting rains will also offer some relief to the Hill Country and Central TX. The High Plains and TP will turn cooler but miss the frontal rains. Elevated fire weather may occur over the upper TP Tue; otherwise, limited fire weather will occur statewide Tue through Thu.

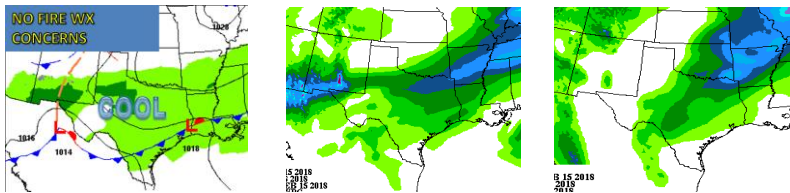
SUMMARY

Elevated Fire WX Today: Periods of elevated fire weather will occur by midday over the Panhandle with the northern Panhandle the most likely area to observe RH values around 20% and sustained winds over 15 mph with higher gusts. RH values will be 10-20% higher today vs yesterday in the High Plains as dew points and cloud cover have increased. Pressure gradient winds should offset reduced vertical mixing due to the cloud cover but shade temperatures down several degrees, hiking RH thresholds.



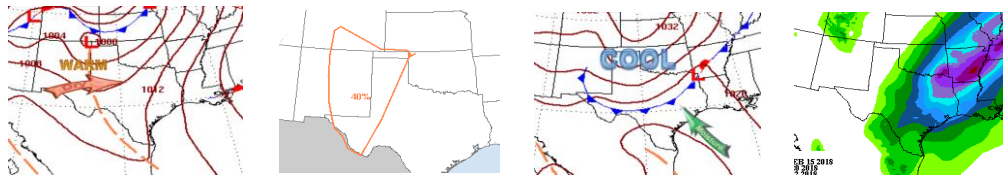
SPC Fire WX Today Wind Speeds 3pm Today RH 3pm Today IR Satellite 8:27am CT

Wet, Cool Weather Trends: A cold front will plow through much of the state Fri, becoming stationary in South TX Fri night. Unseasonably cool, cloudy weather will follow with areas of rain stretching from the Trans-Pecos to East TX. The thirsty High Plains will draw the wrong cards again, missing the needed moisture. The cloudy, cool and moist post-frontal environment will lead to limited fire weather concerns both Fri and Sat across the state. The moist environment will be enhanced Sun as the front lifts northward increasing rain chances over central and northern areas by afternoon, as indicated below.



SFC Snapshot Fri pm 3 Day Rain Fcst to Sun am Rain Fcst Sun-Mon

Fire WX and Heavy Rain Next Week: The weather will flip several times over the next week with the pending cold front Fri being the first “flip” followed by a rapid warmup Sun and Mon, then more cooling to follow with another front Tue and Wed. Elevated fire weather concerns will return to the northwest Panhandle Sun afternoon with higher RH mitigating the risk elsewhere. A more widespread, acute elevated to near critical fire weather pattern will be experienced Mon from the High Plains to the Trans-Pecos as deep layer westerly flow occurs. Fire weather concerns will relax later next week as cool air rushes into a moisture rich environment. Expect heavy rainfall over the northeast quarter Tue and Wed with localized flooding a strong possibility; the heavier rains will shift southeast later Wed and Thu.



SFC Snapshot Mon am SPC Fire WX Mon SFC Snapshot Wed am Rain Fcst Tue-Wed

