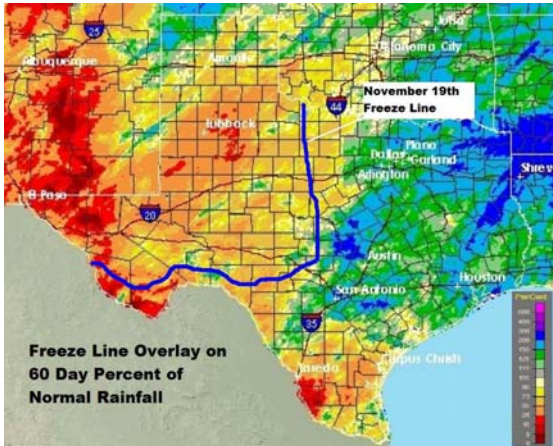


TEXAS INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION REPORT

Friday, November 20, 2009
National Preparedness Level: 1
Southern Area Preparedness Level: 1
TFS Preparedness Level: 1

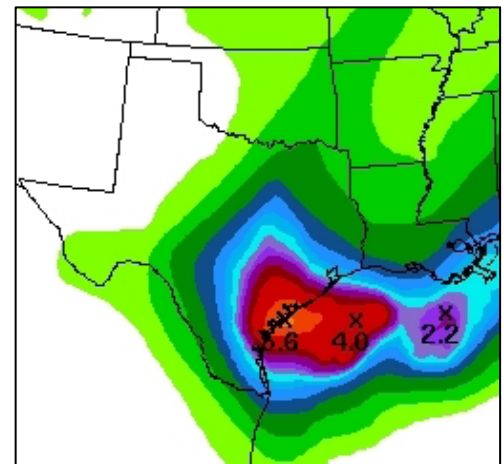
CURRENT SITUATION

The US Fish & Wildlife Service reported two fires for 2 acres during the past week that threatened the Balcones Canyonlands NWR. Fire Departments entered 13 fires for 14 acres in the on-line reporting database. No other wildfire activity was reported.



Freezing temperatures continue to move south and east across the state. The minimum temperatures observed this week will extend the range of cured grasses south and east across the Plains and Hill Country. The map at left illustrates the areas in the state where cured grasses exist or will soon appear in response to recent freezing temperatures. Cured grasses will be found north and west of the blue freeze line.

The HPC rainfall forecast for the next five days predicts that most of the rainfall will occur over the eastern half of the state and miss the



west Texas Plains. This is a rainfall pattern that has been associated with weak to moderate El Niño patterns during the winter months in past years. The bottom line is that there are cured grasses on the western Plains of Texas and there is an emerging area of dryness on the western Plains of Texas. Time will tell if the weak El Niño pattern trends rainfall deficits for the western Plains. The latest Texas Fire Potential Update is available at

http://ticc.tamu.edu/texas_fire_potential_update.pdf



Several new Regional Fire Coordinator positions and other fire-related jobs have been posted for Texas Forest Service. Go to <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/websites/twpp/> to see details of the Texas

Wildfire Protection Plan positions and to apply.

Safety refreshers and work capacity tests required for all wildland firefighters are scheduled to be held in the next few months. A listing of dates and locations for Texas Forest Service full time and seasonal personnel is available at <http://ticc.tamu.edu/trainingcalendar.htm>

The dispatch zones in southeast Texas have been combined into the Livingston Dispatch Zone. In the fire numbers tables below, the Woodville Zone has been deleted and fires formerly attributed to Woodville are now included in Livingston's totals.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

An upper level disturbance will bring widespread showers and thunderstorms mainly to the eastern half of the state today and tomorrow. Precipitation will end from west to east later on Saturday with dry weather expected Sunday and Monday. The arrival of a cold front on Tuesday will likely bring a few more showers and thunderstorms. In West Texas fire danger will be low to moderate over the next seven days. Afternoon relative humidity is expected to drop into the 20 – 30 percent range through the weekend and into Monday; however 20ft winds are expected to remain fairly light at 10 mph or less. With the arrival of the cold front late Monday, afternoon RH values will increase into the 30 – 40 percent range.

TODAY'S SAFETY MESSAGE

Hazard Tree – No Work Zones (NWZ) – knowing exactly when a hazard tree (or compromised section) will fail is an extremely difficult, and in many cases unpredictable, task. Given this fact, we need to manage firefighters' exposure to these hazards by creating a safe work area or NWZ. The size and extent of the NWZ must be determined by onsite conditions, such as terrain, lean, active fire in the tree and adjoining trees. When an identified hazardous tree cannot be felled, an assessment must be performed of which areas have too high a risk, and lookouts must be posted to warn personnel to stay clear of these areas while working in adjacent areas. If hazard still exists before leaving the area, flag the NWZ so that personnel entering the area will be able to recognize the hazard.

FIRES AND ACRES

State (Joint responses by TFS and fire departments)

Unit	11/13 – 11/19		Year to Date			
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Structures Lost	Structures Saved
Linden	0	0	193	5,927	24	129
Henderson	0	0	216	3,986	11	155
Livingston (inc. Woodville)	0	0	479	10,349	47	695
West Zone - N	0	0	82	97,917	230	1,985
West Zone – S	0	0	79	29,845	92	973
West Zone - W	0	0	170	198,444	92	3,513
West Zone - C	0	0	136	15,182	121	1,217
State Totals	0	0	1,355	361,650	617	8,667

Federal

Unit	11/13 – 11/19		Year to Date			
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Structures Lost	Structures Saved
National Forests in TX	0	0	65	577	0	0
US Fish & Wildlife Svc	2	2	184	33,490	0	0
National Park Service	0	0	27	8,663	0	0
BIA – Alabama Coushatta	0	0	8	16	0	0
Federal Totals	2	2	284	42,746	0	0

Fire Departments (Local responses only, requiring no state assistance. (Based on data entered into the Fire Department Wildfire Reporting System).

Region	11/13 – 11/19		Year to Date			
	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Structures Lost	Structures Saved
Linden	2	1	1,014	4,441	18	479
Henderson	0	0	1,578	10,471	46	844
Livingston (inc. Woodville)	1	0	824	2,739	24	729
West Zone - N	2	0	3,514	58,826	230	2,371
West Zone - S	3	6	2,119	46,361	103	1,797
West Zone - W	4	6	3,015	178,986	143	2,271
West Zone - C	1	1	2,429	36,626	88	1,806
Fire Department Totals	13	14	14,493	338,450	652	10,297

Year-To-Date Totals

Agency	Fires	Acres	Structures Lost	Structures Saved
State	1,355	361,650	617	8,667
Federal	284	42,746	0	0
Fire Departments	14,493	338,450	652	10,297
Totals	16,132	742,846	1,269	18,964

The National Interagency Situation Report can be found at <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>

The Southern Area Coordination Center Morning Report can be found at <http://gacc.nifc.gov/sacc/predictive/intelligence/SACCMorningReport.pdf>