Texas Fire Potential Update
September 14th-September 20th, 2020
Predictive Services Department
Fire Potential Notes

• Above normal fuel moisture is present across most of the state after two multi-day rainfall events over the past few weeks. The combination of above normal fuel moisture and no elevated fire weather will keep initial attack potential low through the weekend.

• Energy Release Component values in all PSA are near or below normal. The combination of seasonal temperatures and a moist environment will keep drying potential low through the weekend.
Reported fire activity has been limited over the past 7-days due to the abrupt shift to a cool and wet fire environment observed last week. Fire potential will remain low across the state through the weekend.
A multi-day rainfall event over the past 7 days produced 1-6+ inch rainfall amounts across parts of the Western Hill Country and Rolling Plains. Some of the last week’s rainfall backed up the September 2nd and 3rd rainfall event in the Rolling Plains and Cross Timbers.

Rainfall coverage and amounts were more isolated in the Central and Western Trans Pecos. Parts of the western High Plains have missed out on the widespread recent rainfall, but most of the area of missed rainfall has good access on generally flat terrain.
Since last week’s rainfall, rainfall surpluses have replaced areas of rainfall deficits in the Hill Country and Rolling Plains. Increased soil moisture and warm soil temperatures should promote increased herbaceous greenness. More information will be gathered this week to confirm the state of herbaceous greenness.

Grasses are likely still cured where rainfall deficits of 25% or less are present in parts of the Trans Pecos and Western Plains near the New Mexico border.
The long duration rainfall event from last week produced normal to above normal fuel moisture across the state.

The Victoria RAWS did observe 0.27 inch of rain Sunday evening and will likely increase fuel moisture back to normal.

Statewide, normal to above normal fuel moisture will persist through the weekend keeping fire potential low.
Tropical Storm Sally will have little impact on Texas in terms of rainfall and or wind.

The greatest coverage for forecast rainfall through Friday will be along the mid to lower coast due to a stalled frontal boundary.
By the weekend, a weak cold front will stall across the state. Little to no rainfall is forecast for the state Saturday and Sunday.
Forecast high temperatures will be near normal this week and cool slightly Saturday and Sunday due to the cold front moving into the state.

The combination of cooler temperatures and shorter days (less solar radiation) will keep drying potential low.
ERC values are below normal in 12 of the 14 PSA after last week’s rainfall and below normal temperatures. Only 2 PSA are near normal. Seasonably warm temperatures and increased moisture in the fire environment will keep drying potential low statewide through the weekend.
Last week’s below normal temperatures, cloud cover, and moist environment decreased ERC values below normal in the Trans Pecos before a slight rebound occurred over the weekend. Drying potential should remain low this week with ERC values in the Trans Pecos remaining near normal through the weekend.
No elevated fire weather is forecast across the state for the outlook period. The driest day with relative humidity near 25% is Thursday and is forecast close to the New Mexico border. Relative Humidity values will improve across the state Friday and into the weekend. Winds speeds are forecast to be around 10mph or less throughout the week.
Wind speeds are forecast to increase near 15 mph across the High Plains this weekend. Normal to above normal fuel moisture, cooler temperatures, and increased relative humidity should keep fire potential low. Any fires that do occur will have low resistance to control.