Texas Fire Potential Update
November 6th – November 12th 2023
Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services
Fire Potential Notes November 6th-November 12th, 2023

- A cold front is forecast to move through the state mid to late week. This cold front will serve as the mechanism to produce pre-frontal elevated to critical fire weather for portions of the High Plains and increased rainfall chances for South Texas, East Texas, and the Upper Gulf Coast.

- Tuesday’s fire environment of dry, freeze cured grasses combined with near record heat and pre-frontal critical fire weather will produce moderate potential for wildfire activity in the High Plains. A fire could exhibit moderate resistance to control in above normal grass loading.

- Wednesday’s fire environment will continue to support moderate potential for wildfire activity in the High Plains due to well above normal temperatures and pre-frontal elevated fire weather over dry, freeze cured grasses. Resistance to control should be low with decreased wind speeds. No rainfall is expected over the High Plains with this frontal passage.

- Increased gulf surface moisture and opportunities for rainfall will keep wildfire potential low in Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast.

- A hard freeze occurred last week across parts of West Texas, resulting in dormant, freeze cured grasses. Freeze cured grasses require short term drying and moderate fire weather to produce wildfire activity.
Reported wildfire activity over the past 7 days has been low. Resistance to control of reported wildfires has been characterized as low.
Surface high pressure limited rainfall coverage and amounts across the state over the past 7 days. The High Plains, far Southeast Texas, the Upper Gulf Coast, South Texas, and western Trans Pecos received only scattered rainfall over the past 14 days.
The 30 day percent of normal precipitation map highlights areas of underlying dryness defined by areas with 25% or less than normal precipitation. Persistent dryness continues in parts of the High Plains, Southeast Texas, South Texas, and the western Trans Pecos where precipitation deficits of less than 50% are present over the past 60 days.
Morning lows between October 29th-November 1st produced hard freeze conditions where several hours of <28°F temperatures were observed. Grasses are now considered dormant and freeze cured where the hard freezes occurred.

Freeze cured grasses are the catalyst for the Texas dormant fire season, requiring short term drying and moderate fire weather to produce wildfire activity.
An approaching cold front and associated low pressure system will be the mechanism that produces elevated to critical fire weather across the High Plains Tuesday and Wednesday and increased rainfall opportunities for South and East Texas Thursday and Friday.
Well above normal temperatures are anticipated across the state Monday through Wednesday. Daily high record temperatures are possible across the High Plains and Rolling Plains Tuesday and Wednesday. These anomalously warm temperatures and mostly sunny conditions will increase ignition potential where dry, freeze cured grasses are present.
The intersection of dry, freeze cured grasses and very high fire danger suggests moderate potential for wildfire activity Tuesday and Wednesday for the central and northern High Plains.
Above normal temperatures, brief elevated fire weather, and freeze cured grasses will support low potential for wildfire activity in the central High Plains Monday afternoon.
Dry, freeze cured grasses combined with near record high temperatures and pre-frontal, critical fire weather will support moderate potential for wildfire activity in the High Plains. A fire could exhibit moderate resistance to control as much of the High Plains does have above normal grass loading.
As the cold front enters the High Plains Wednesday, elevated fire weather will persist over dry freeze cured grasses, supporting moderate potential for wildfire activity. Resistance to control should be low as wind speeds are forecast to remain below 20 mph.
Several days of above normal temperatures and dry conditions will lead to high drying of surface fuel in the High Plains as noted by the spike in forecast ERC. Once the cold front passes Thursday, cooler temperatures and increased humidity will increase fuel moisture, decreasing ERC. Despite forecast rainfall and a decrease in ERC, Southeast Texas is forecast to remain above average over the next 7 days. No predictive service area ERC is expected to reach the critical 90th percentile over the next 7 days, indicating limited potential for wildfires that are highly resistant to control.
The cold front is forecast to stall and become stationary into the Gulf of Mexico this weekend. An upper level disturbance will likely generate showers across far South Texas and the near the Gulf Coast Saturday and Sunday.
The fire environment across the state this weekend will be cooler with limited fire weather. Fuel moisture should continue to trend near to above normal across the state keeping wildfire potential low Saturday and Sunday.