Texas Fire Potential Update

April 20^{th}-April 24^{th}, 2020

Predictive Services Department
Fire Potential Notes

- Accelerated drying of fuel and periods of elevated to near critical fire weather will produce low to moderate initial attack fire potential across the Trans Pecos and parts of the Western Hill Country this week. IA potential will increase to moderate on Wednesday with low to moderate significant fire potential.

- No rainfall is forecast where emerging dryness is expanding across parts of the Trans Pecos and far Western Hill Country. A dryline may produce some isolated strong storms Tuesday night in the lower Western Hill Country.

- Above normal temperatures, poor overnight recoveries, and low day time relative humidity will produce accelerated drying of surface fuel for the Trans Pecos and far Western Hill Country. The coverage of dry surface fuel is expected to increase through the week and into the weekend.
The Holcome Rd Fire started east of the Pecos River on Sunday. The Shortwave Infrared signature from GOES-16 captured the established fire. Weather observations from Ozona Municipal Airport were 86° F, sustained Northwest winds of 20-25 mph with gusts up to 40 mph, and relative humidity of 8%.
No rainfall is forecast through Friday in the Trans Pecos where little to no rainfall has been observed the past two weeks.

Several opportunities for showers and storms are forecast for the Northern High Plains and East Texas during the week.
Emerging dryness of 25% or less than normal rainfall is expanding across the Trans Pecos, parts of the Western Hill Country and Southern Plains.

Short term dryness should improve this week across the northern High Plains with several opportunities for rainfall.
The normal peak dryness for the Trans Pecos is late April and early May. Accelerated drying this week will likely increase ERC values above the seasonal average.
Drying Potential This Week

The forecast 10-hour fuel moisture percentile map provides guidance toward an earlier and later burn period. When forecast 10-hour fuel moisture percentiles are at or below the 25th percentile, that is a good indicator of poor overnight relative humidity recoveries and increased availability of cured grasses.

Forecast 10-hour fuel moisture will likely be at or below the 25th percentile almost each day during the outlook period for the Trans Pecos and far Western Hill Country. Forecast poor overnight recoveries this week will aid in the accelerated drying of surface fuel.

Gulf surface moisture will return after today across South Texas increasing 10-Hour fuel moisture above the 25th percentile this week.
A progressive pattern is forecast this week with several cold fronts impacting the state. A dryline will be active across the Western Hill Country before a cold front moves east across the state Wednesday.

The dryline may produce some isolated strong storms Tuesday night in the lower Western Hill Country while strong to severe storms are forecast for the High Plains and Eastern half of Texas Wednesday.
Above normal temperatures are forecast for most of the state through Thursday. The combination of above normal temperatures and dry air will produce accelerated drying this week in the Trans Pecos and far Western Hill Country.
The 100-Hr fuel moisture percentile map provides guidance toward availability of brush/timber litter fuel when stations are at or below the 25th percentile.

The forecast accelerated drying of surface fuel is indicated in the forecast 100-Hr fuel moisture percentile map. 100-Hr fuel moisture will continue to decrease this week across the Trans Pecos and Western Hill Country.
Elevated to near critical fire weather is forecast across the Trans Pecos and Western Hill Country Monday. These same areas observed poor overnight recoveries Sunday night. Initial attack potential will be low to moderate with increased availability of cured grasses.
Elevated to near critical fire weather is forecast for the Trans Pecos, Western Hill Country, and Southern Plains on Wednesday. Accelerated drying of fuel will continue through Wednesday increasing initial attack potential to moderate.
The National Weather Service is providing experimental 7-day forecast data used in the National Fire Danger Rating System. The forecast ERC and BI values provide an idea of forecast drying trends and days with potential increased fire weather using the significant fire potential matrices.

Forecast ERC values indicate the drying trend this week along with the strongest fire weather on Wednesday when significant fire potential is forecast to be low to moderate.

https://ticc.tamu.edu/PredictiveServices/WeatherStation.htm
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<th>Day</th>
<th>ERC</th>
<th>BI</th>
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