Texas Fire Potential Update

March 7th –March 11th,2024

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services

Fire Potential Notes March 7th- March 11th, 2024

- Ahead of a cold front passage Thursday, elevated to critical fire weather is expected over portions of the lower High Plains and Southern Plains. Fuel moisture will remain near normal, however, the 14-day rainfall totals show large deficits supporting very dry grasses. The fire potential for Thursday is moderate with the possibility of a large fire.

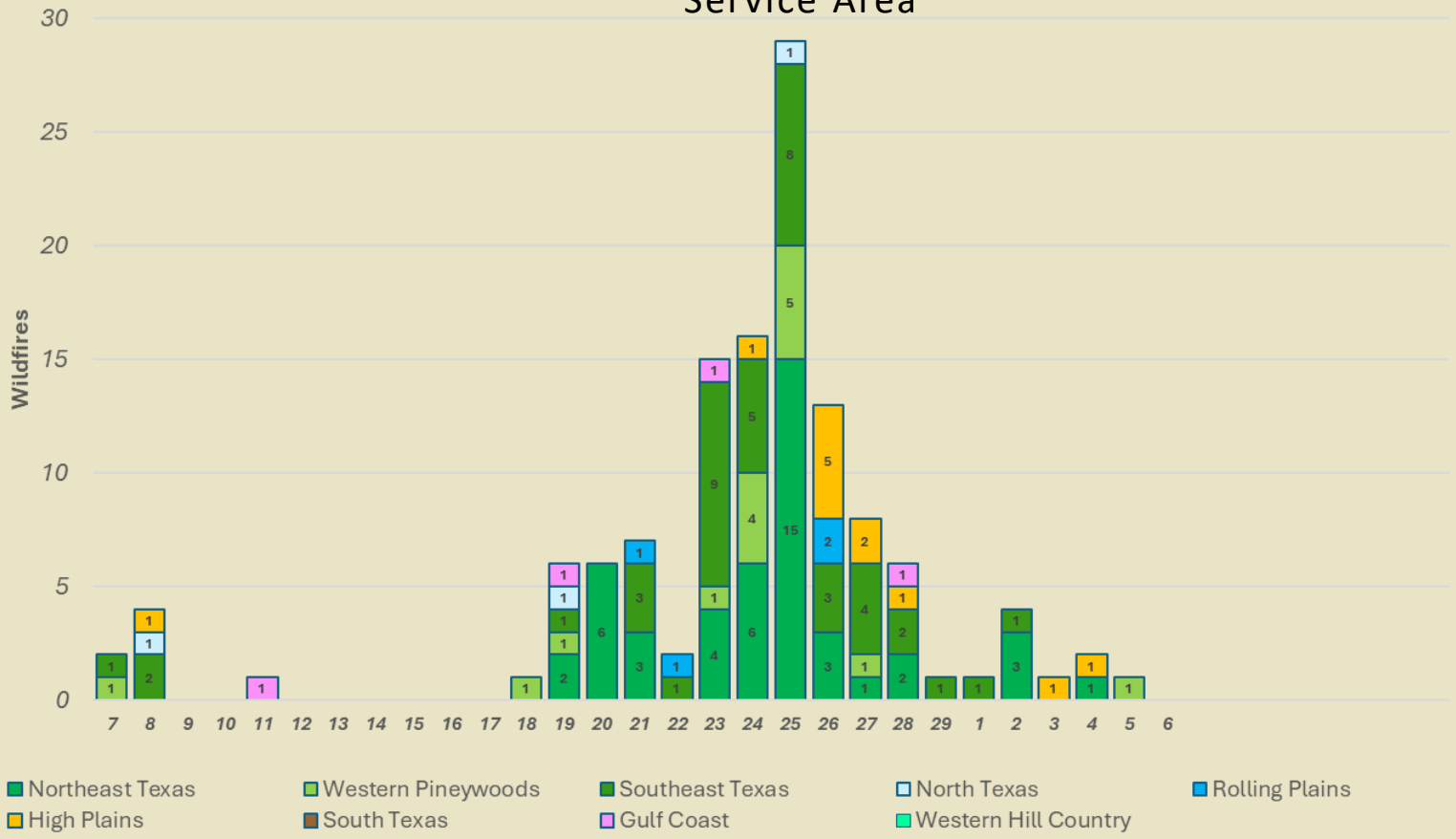
- The fire environment after Thursday across Texas is not forecast to support an increased threat for large wildfires that are highly resistant to control through Sunday. No widespread dry or critically dry fuel is expected to be exposed to a critical fire weather trigger.

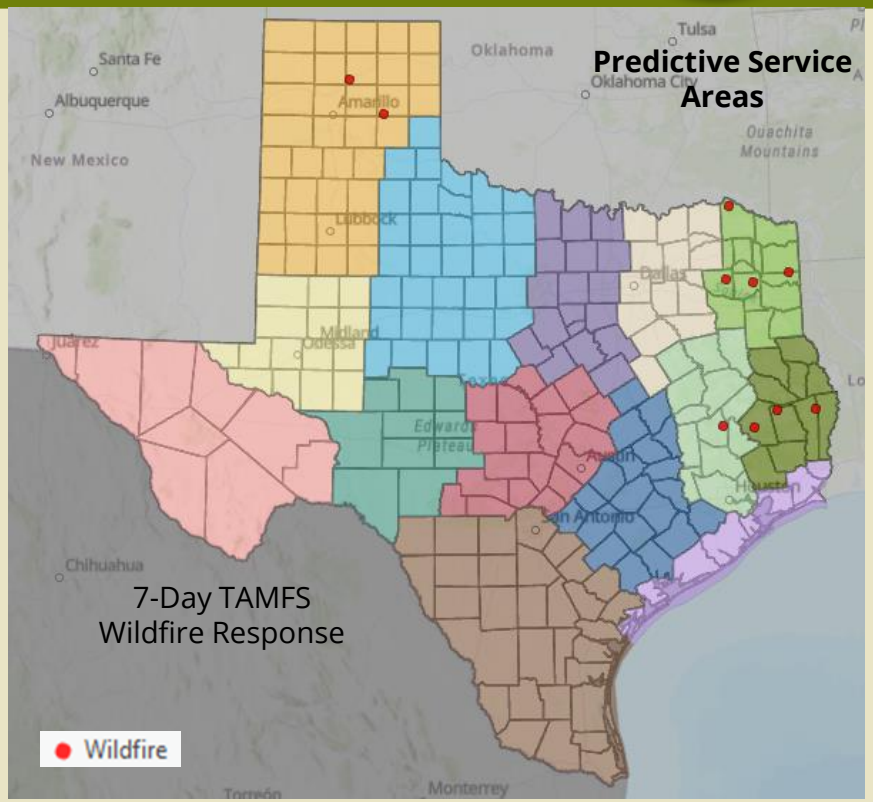
- A dry and breezy post-frontal environment Saturday may support low potential for small wildfires in dry and dormant, above normal grass loading for South Texas. Near normal fuel moisture will limit the threat for large wildfires that are resistant to control.

- Fire potential concerns will increase starting Monday across the High Plains.

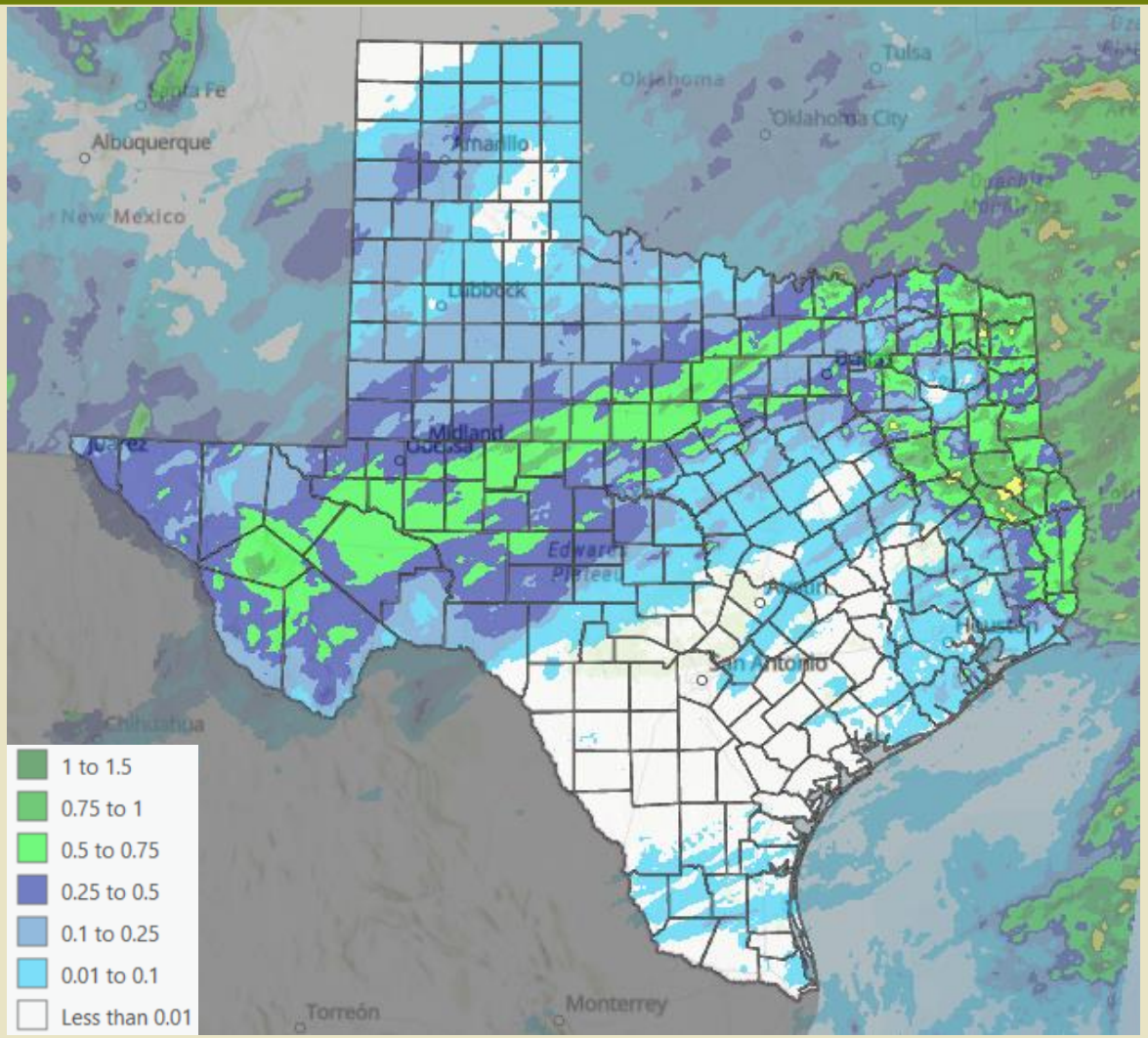
Texas A&M Forest Service has responded to 10 wildfires in the past 7 days. Response has been limited to fine fuels in the High Plains and East Texas. Resistance to control has been low.

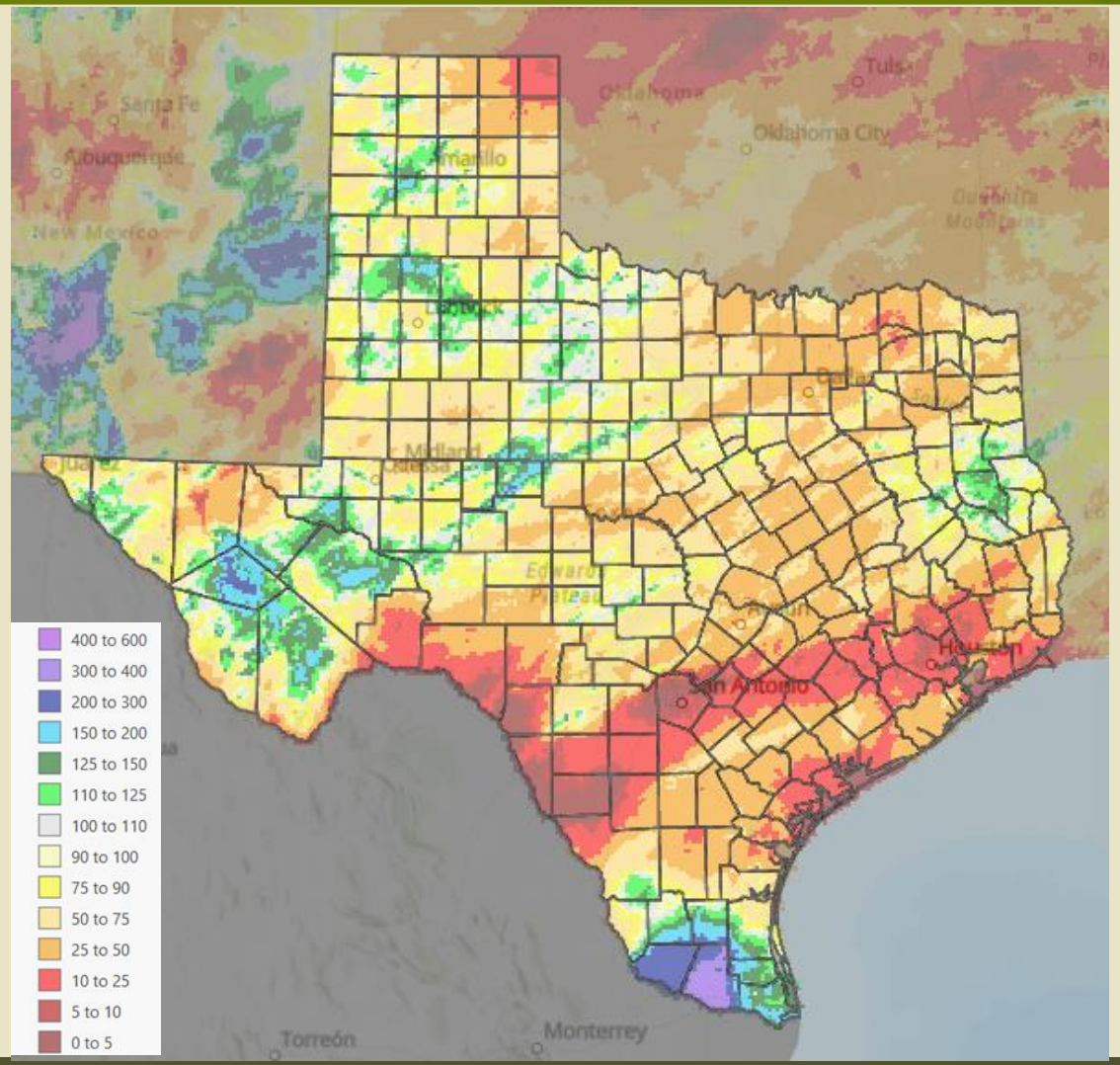
February 7th –March 6th, 2024 TAMFS Wildfire Response by Predictive Service Area





Emerging dryness continues and strengthens in South and Central Texas over the past 30 days. Rainfall over the past 14 days benefited the Trans Pecos and parts of the Rolling Plains. Emerging dryness in North and Northeast Texas will benefit the most from forecast rain through Saturday.

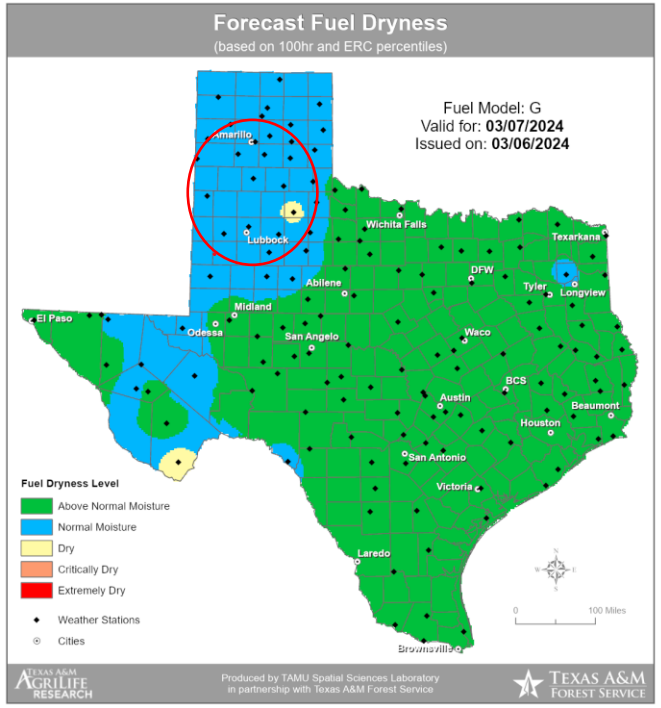


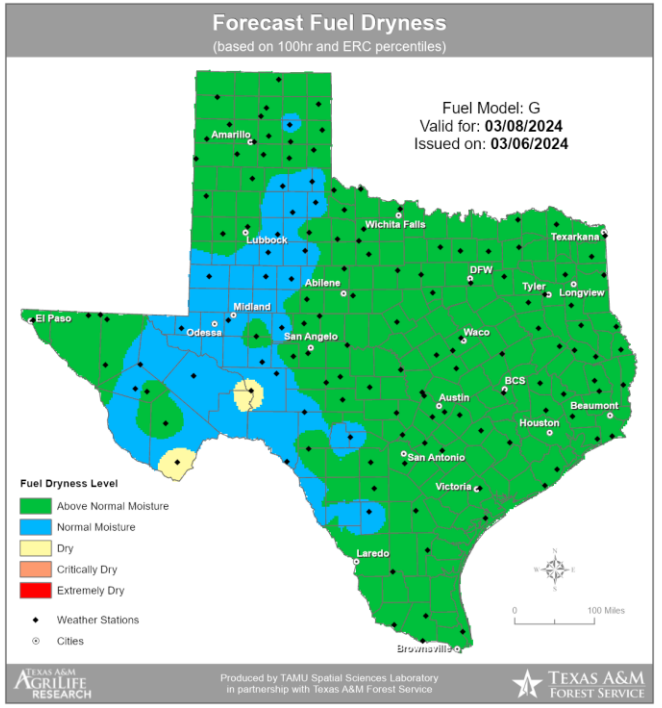


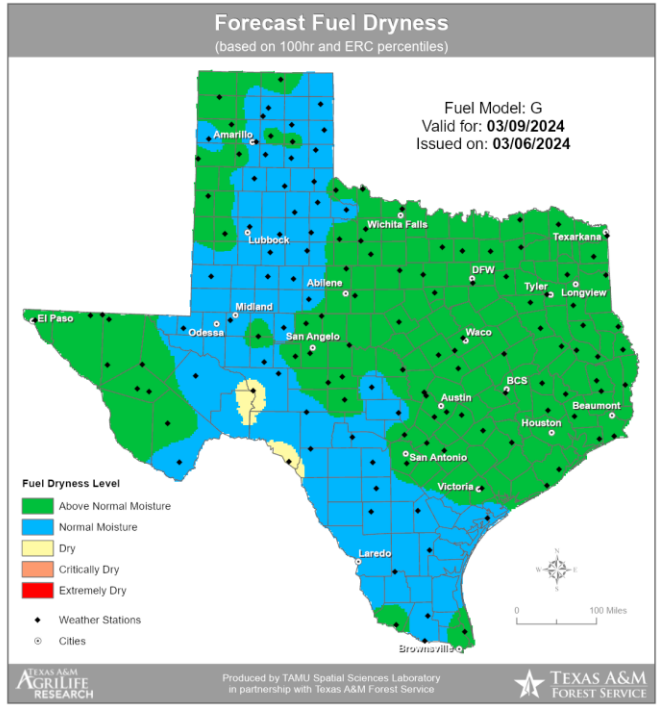
Above normal loading of cured grasses in the lower High Plains will require less drying and only elevated fire weather to promote large fire growth, with resistance to control on Thursday.

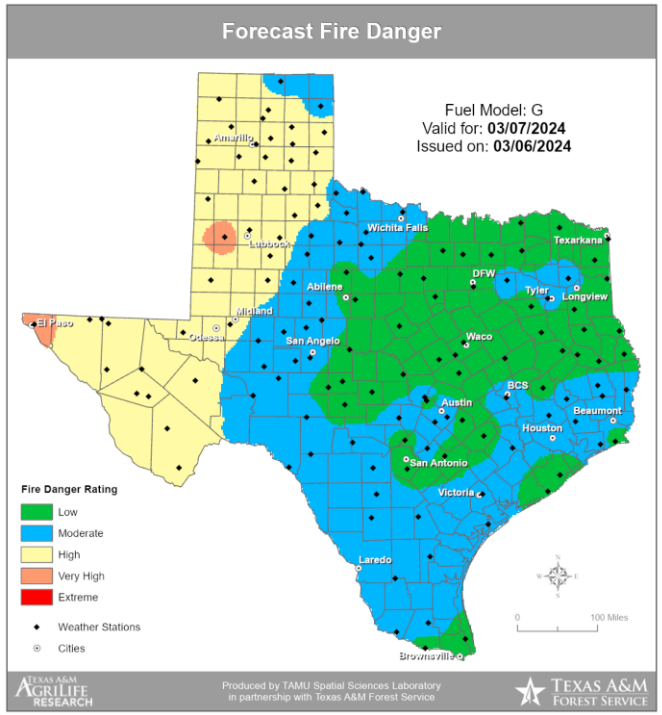
Fuel dryness is forecast to remain near normal in West Texas through Sunday. An increase in moisture is shown in Friday's fuel dryness.

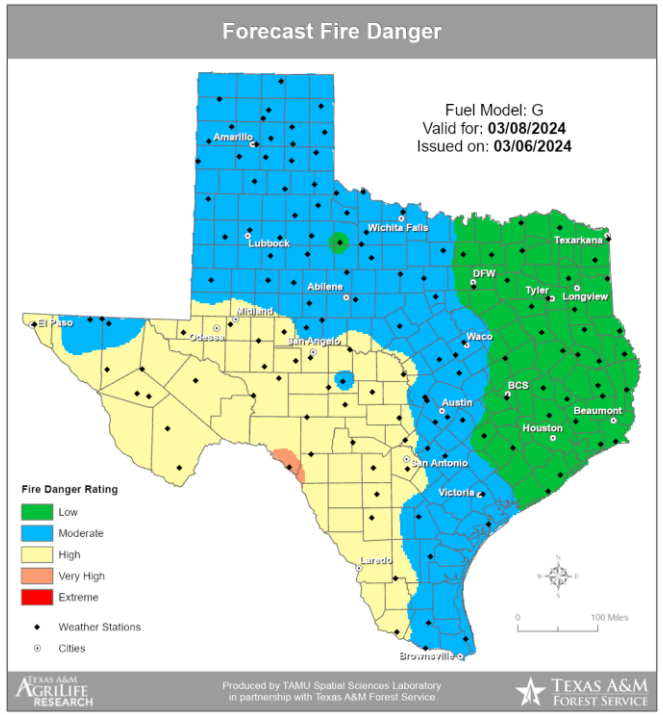
Fire potential increases for South Texas by Saturday, however post-frontal conditions will keep fuel moisture levels near normal.

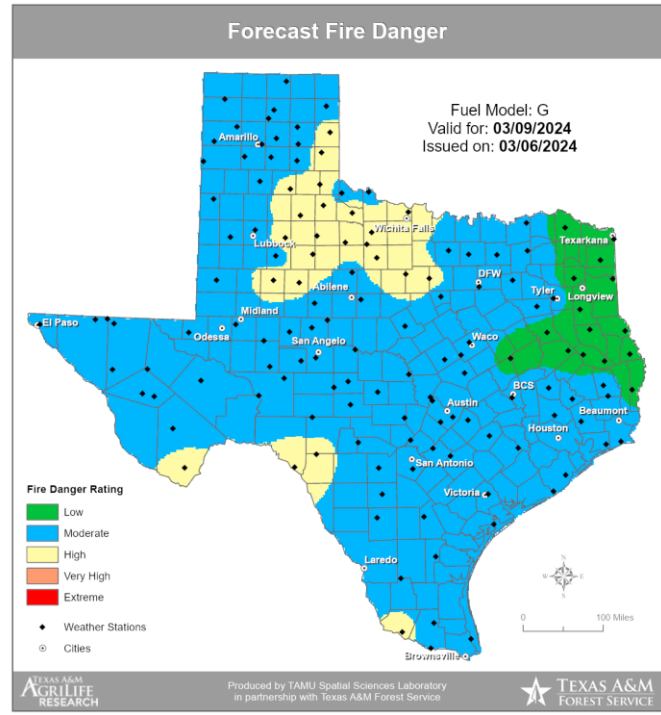






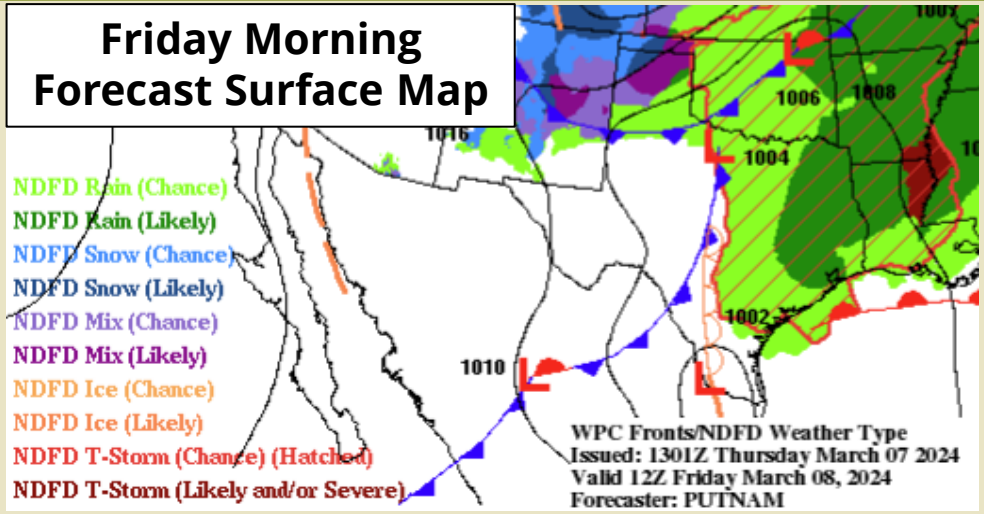




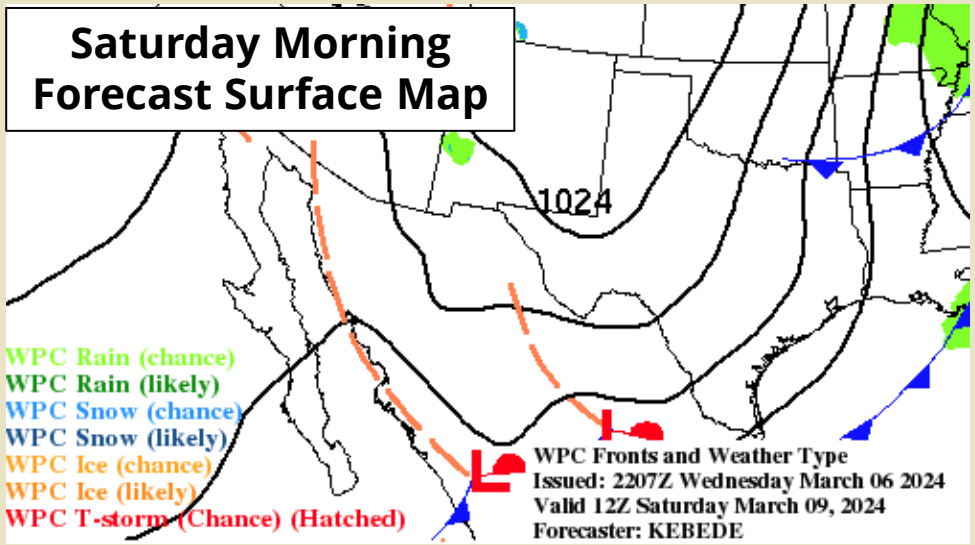


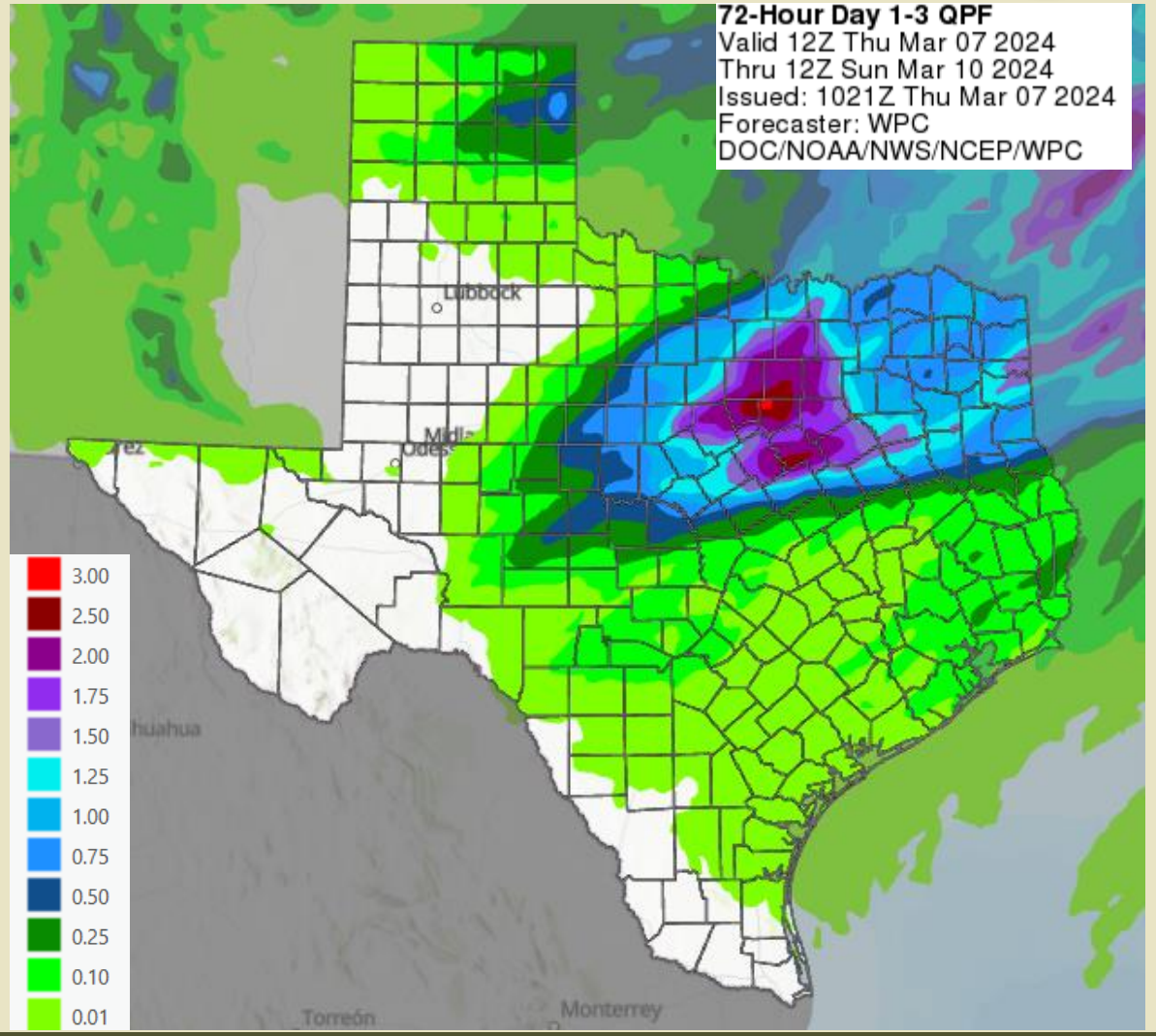
Two frontal passages Thursday and Friday will bring rain chances to the eastern half of the state. Precipitation will be short duration and totals will remain low. The northern High Plains will have a chance of receiving precipitation to temporarily moisten fine fuels. The Trans Pecos, Southern Plains, and portions of South Texas will see little to no rain.

Friday Morning Forecast Surface Map

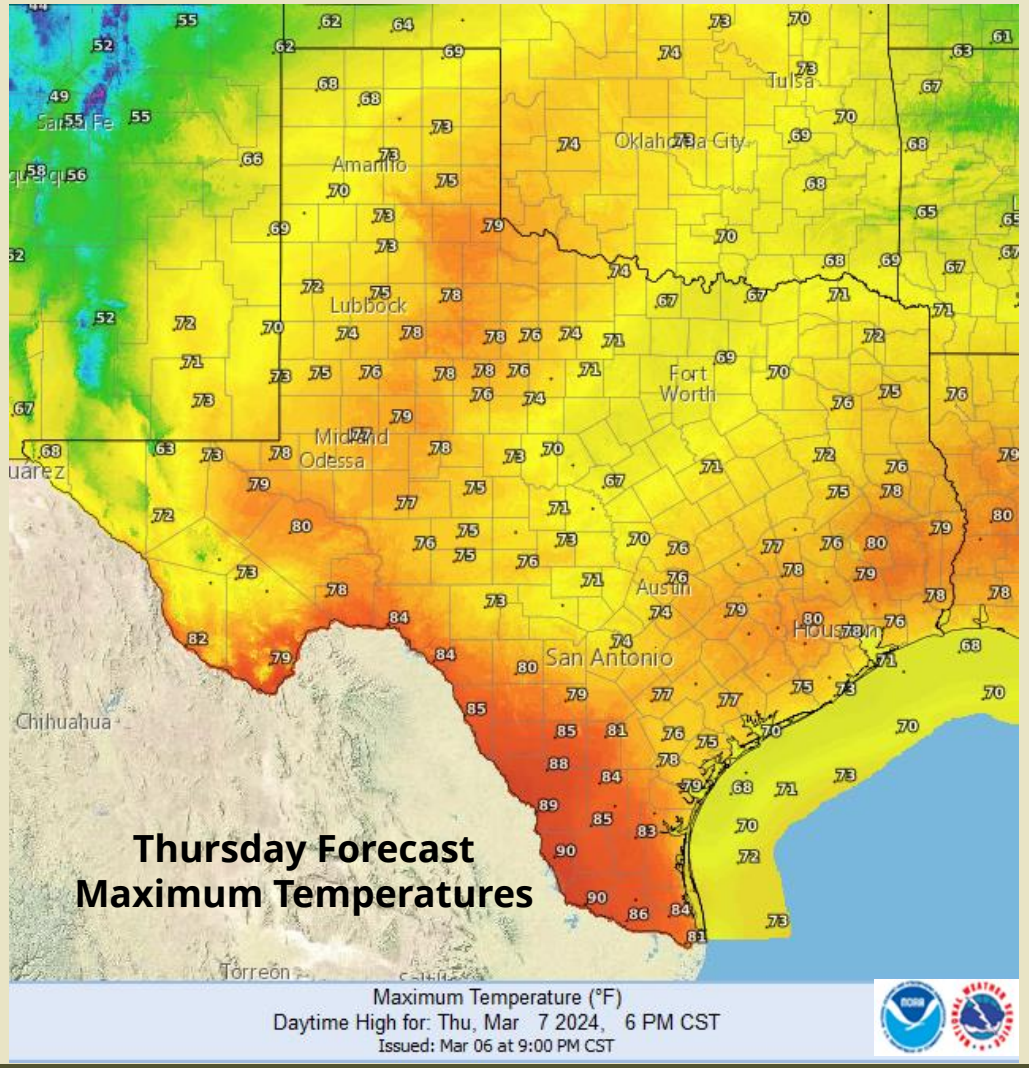


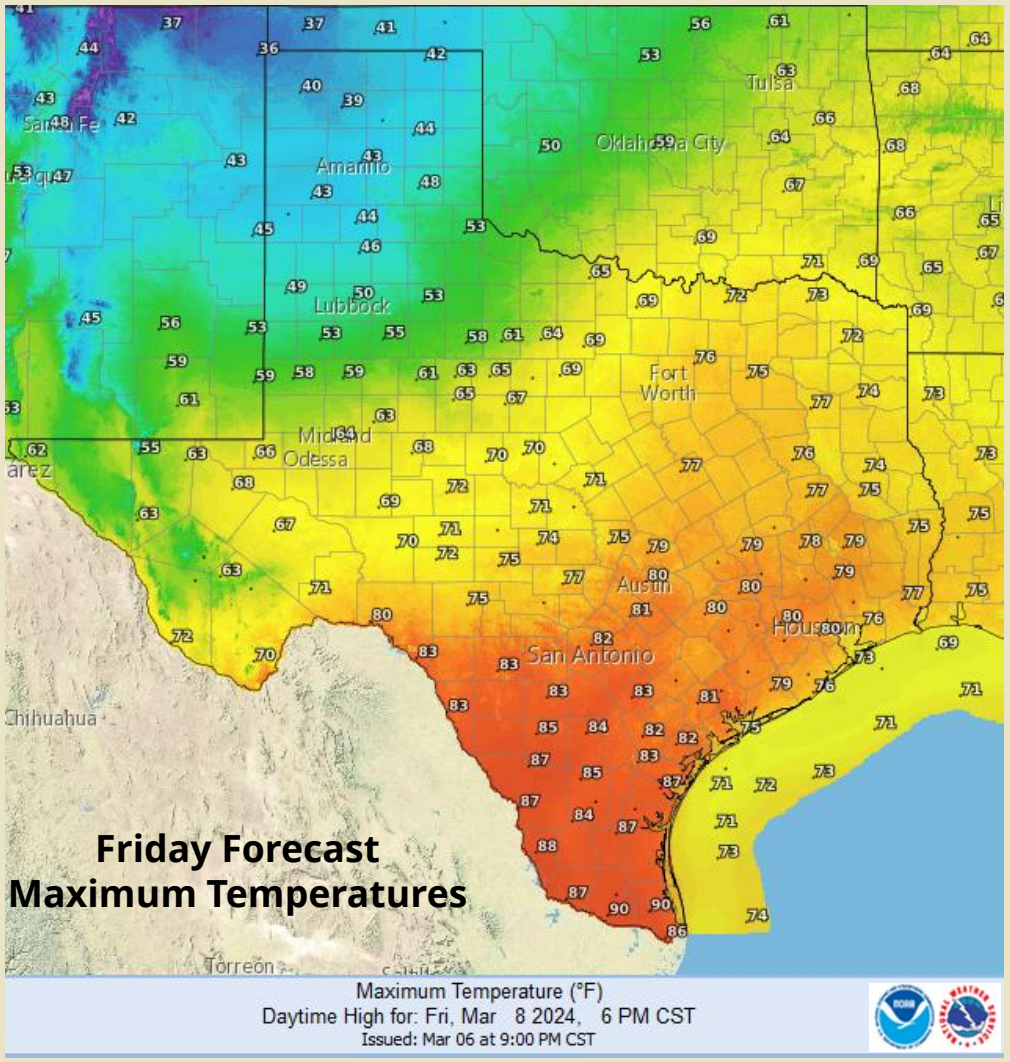
Saturday Morning Forecast Surface Map



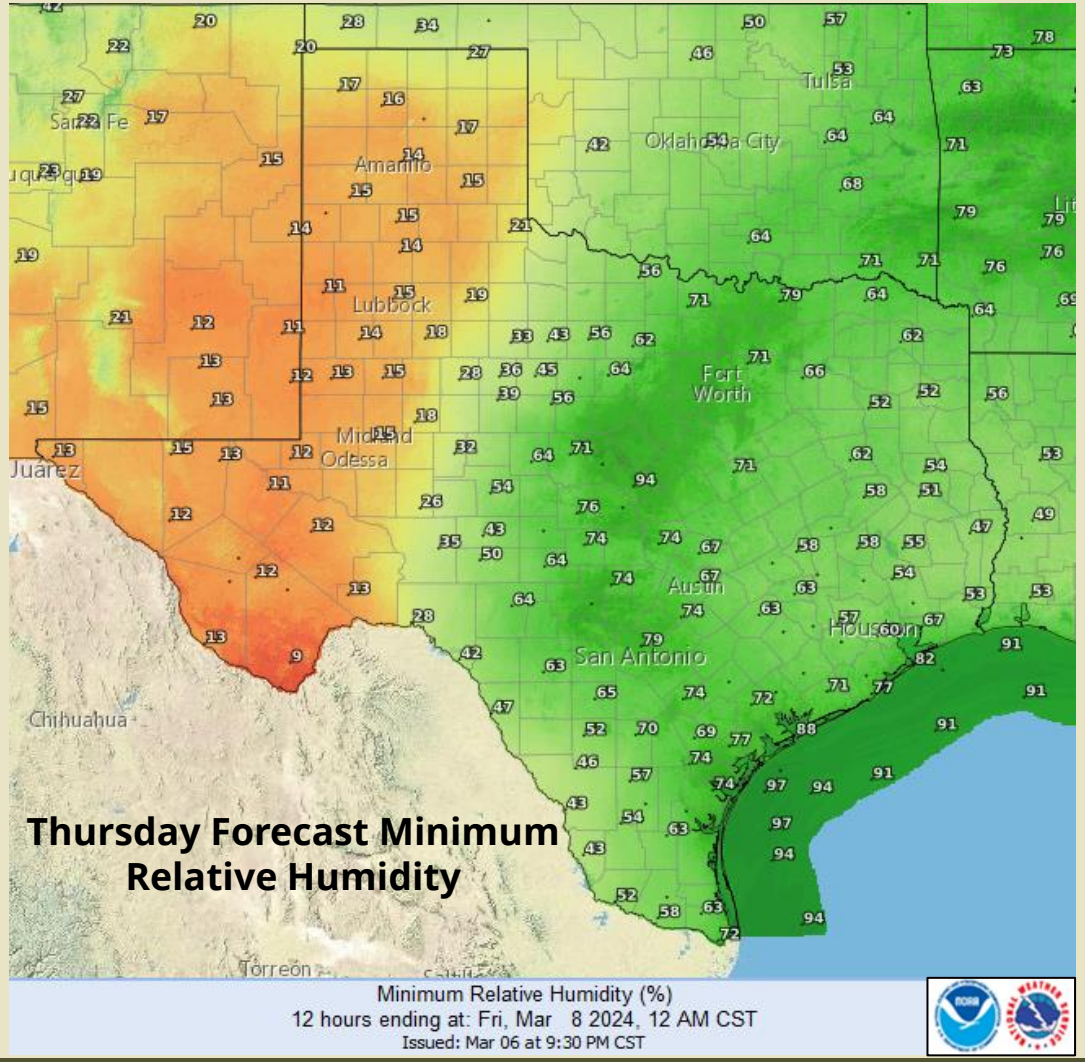


Temperatures will fall in the High Plains after a cold front passage and the rest of the state will remain near normal.

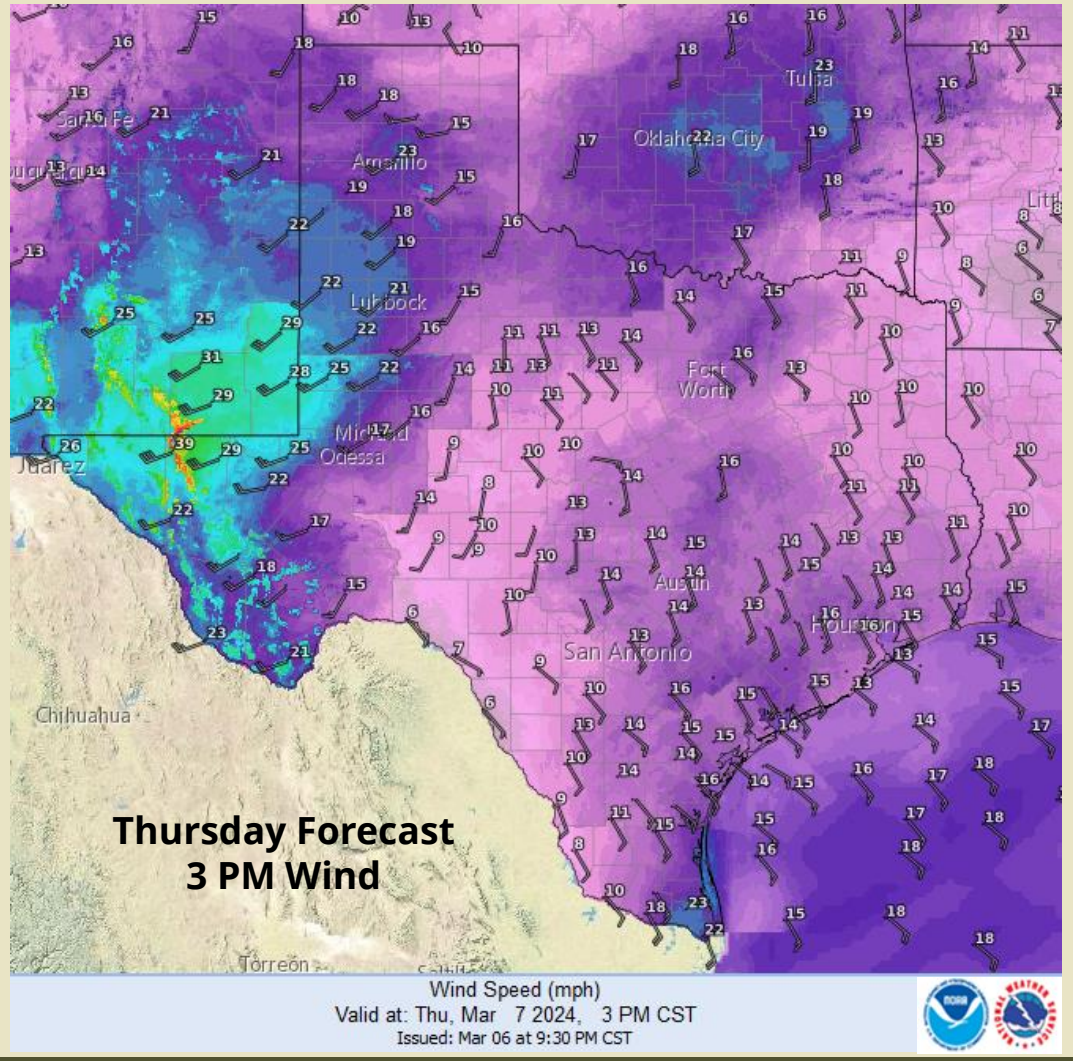




Ahead of a cold front passage a brief period of elevated to critical fire weather over portions of the lower High Plains and Southern Plains is expected Thursday. Fuel moisture is expected remain near normal with pockets of "dry" supporting low to moderate potential for wildfires. A large fire is possible where there is increased fire weather aligned with above normal grass loading and dry fuel. Less grass loading in the Southern Plains will mitigate the threat for a large wildfire.

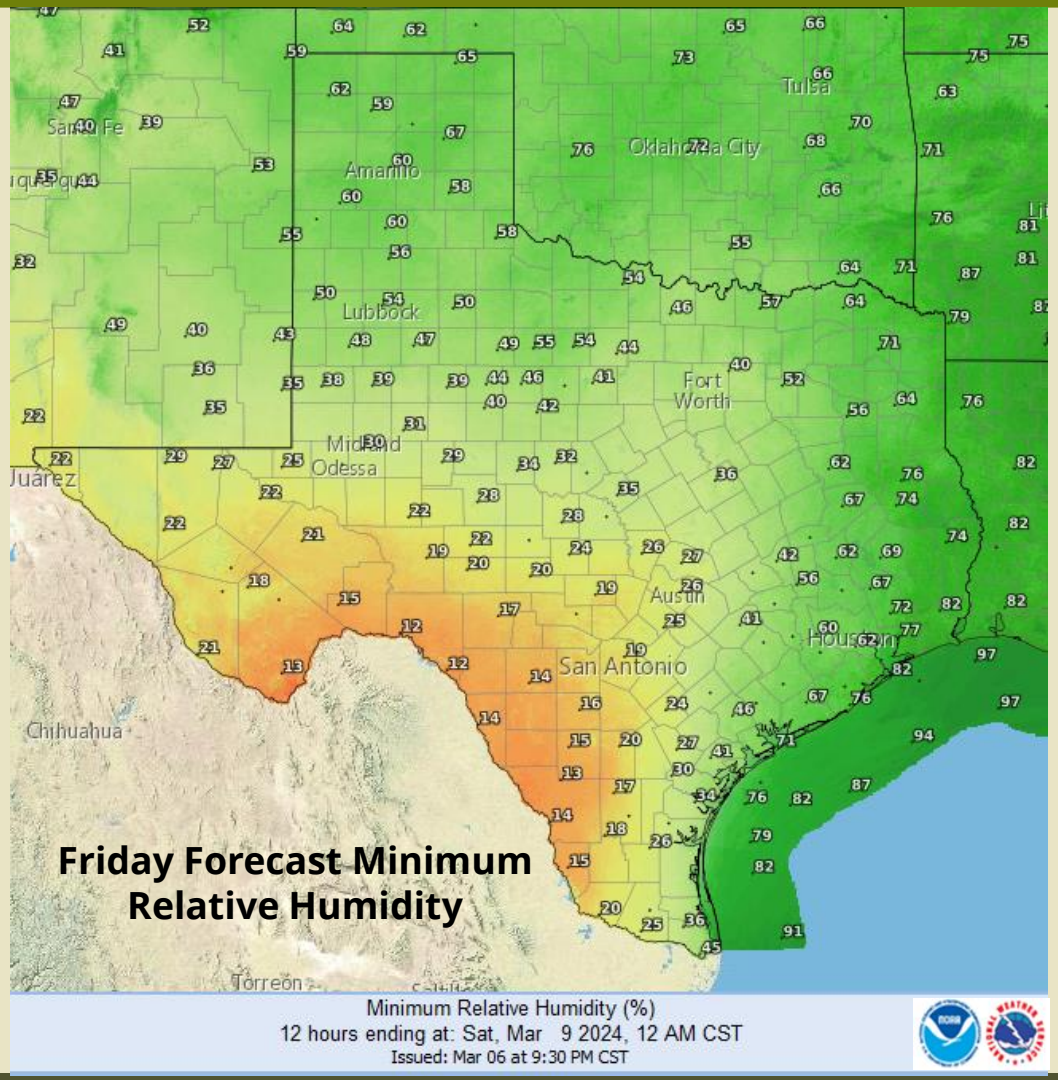


Thursday Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity

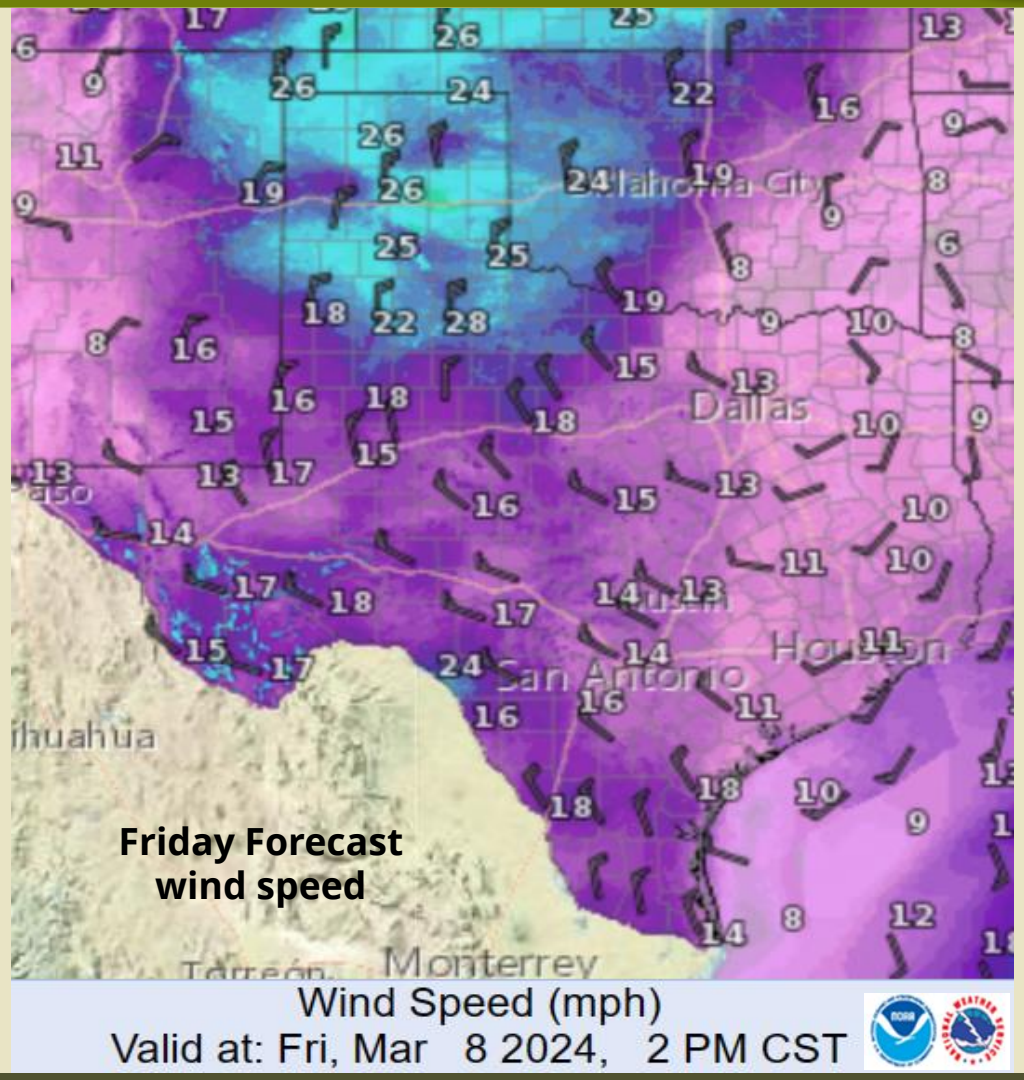


Thursday Forecast 3 PM Wind

A dry and breezy post-frontal environment is expected to develop Friday afternoon as the cold front exits the state. The Hill Country and South Texas will observe critically low relative humidity values Friday, but wind speeds do not reach critical levels keeping the potential for wildfires low.

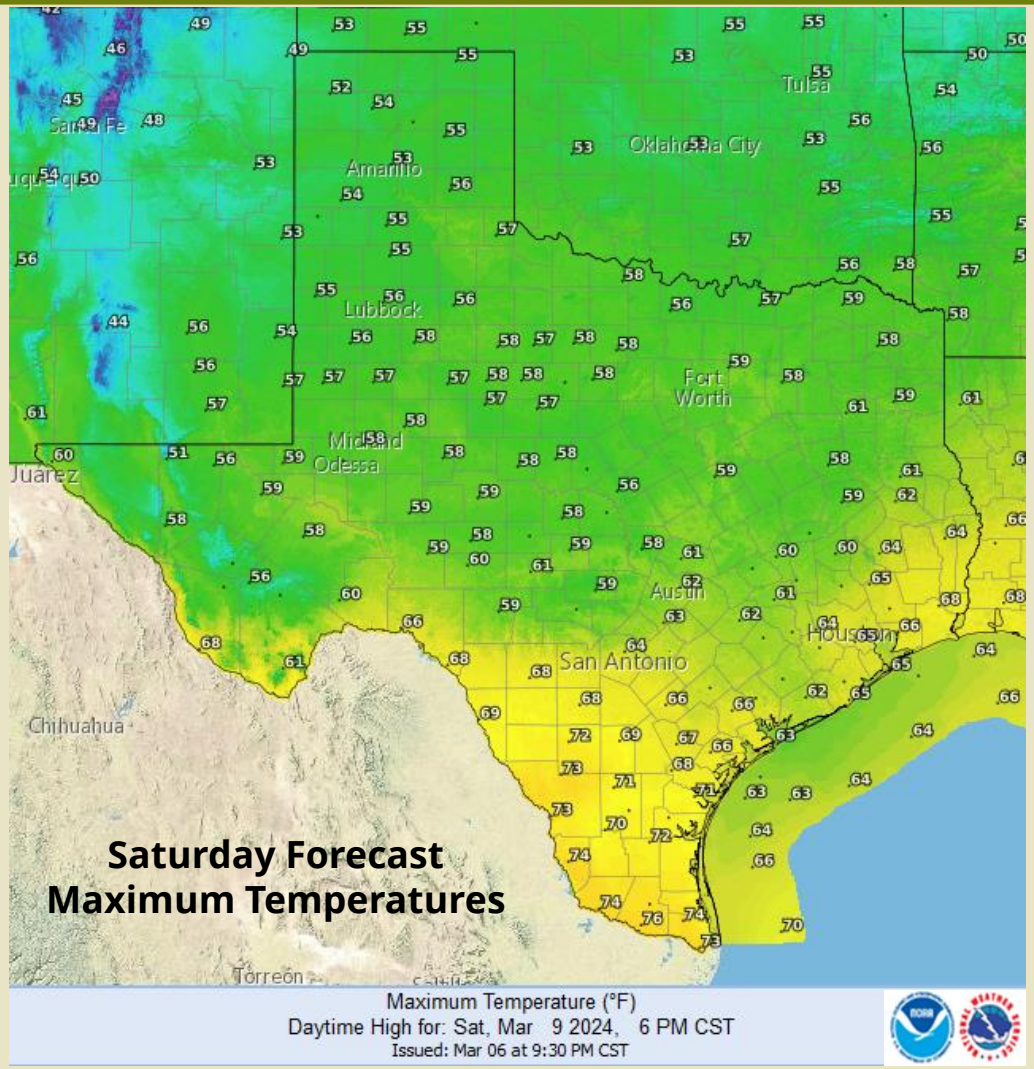


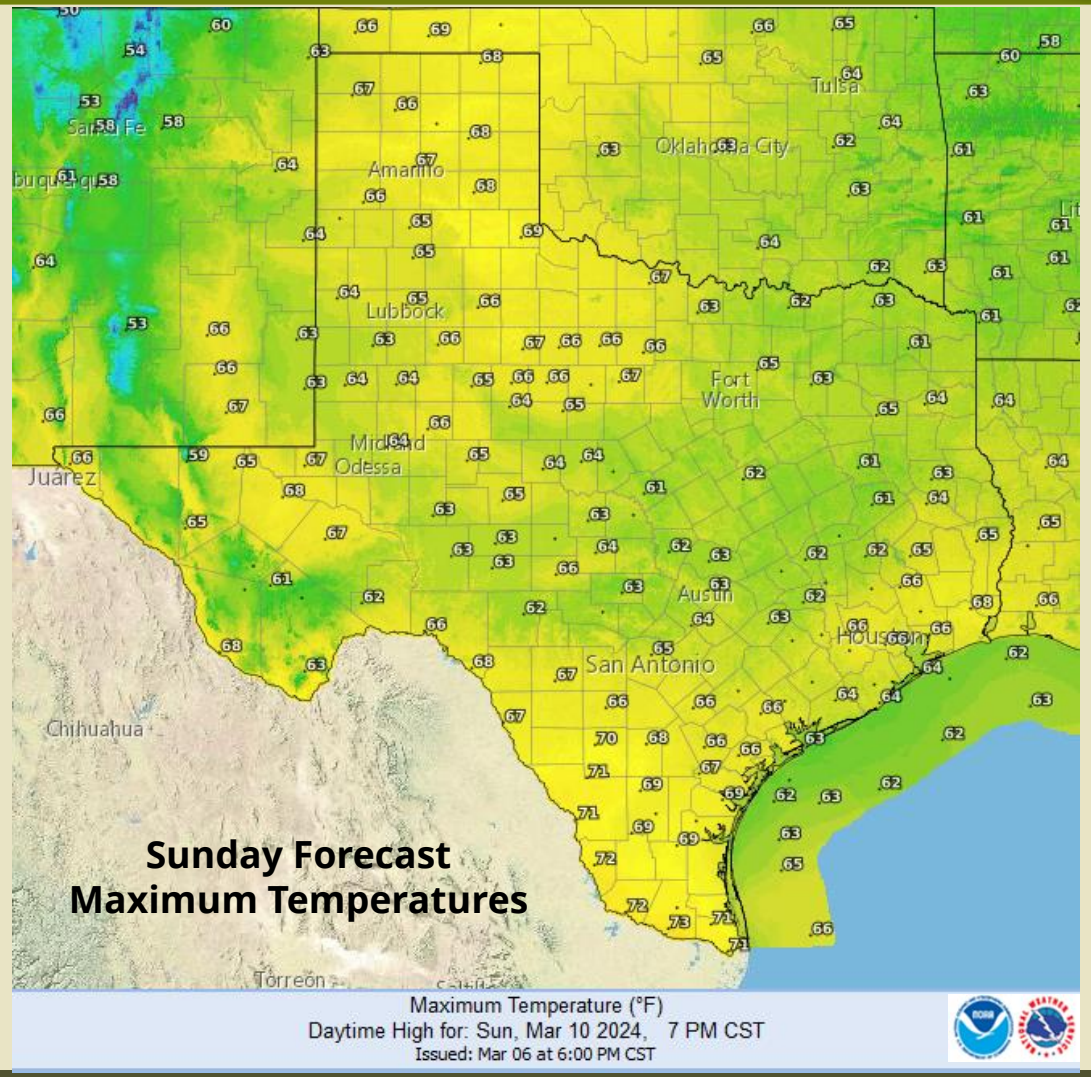
Friday Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity



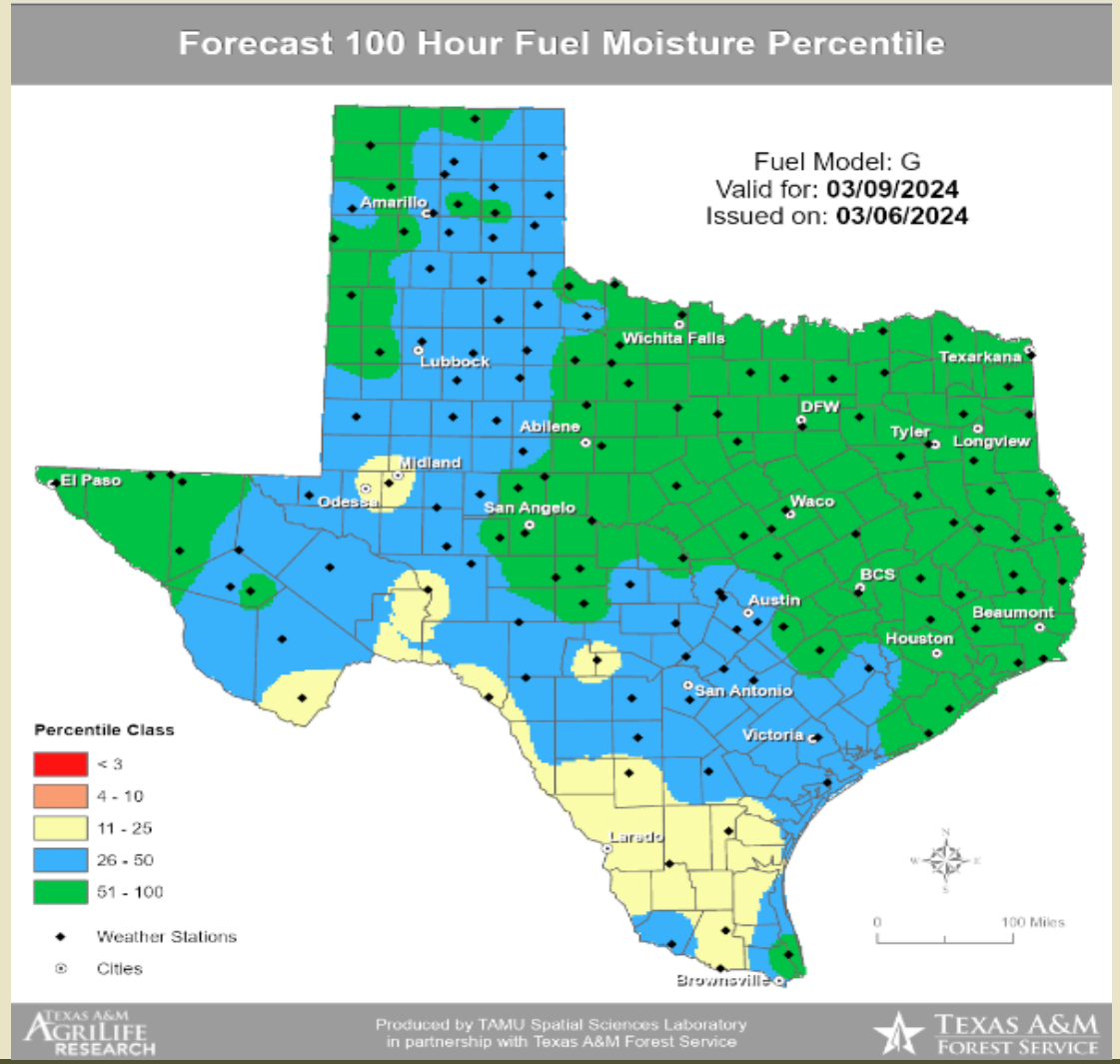
Friday Forecast wind speed

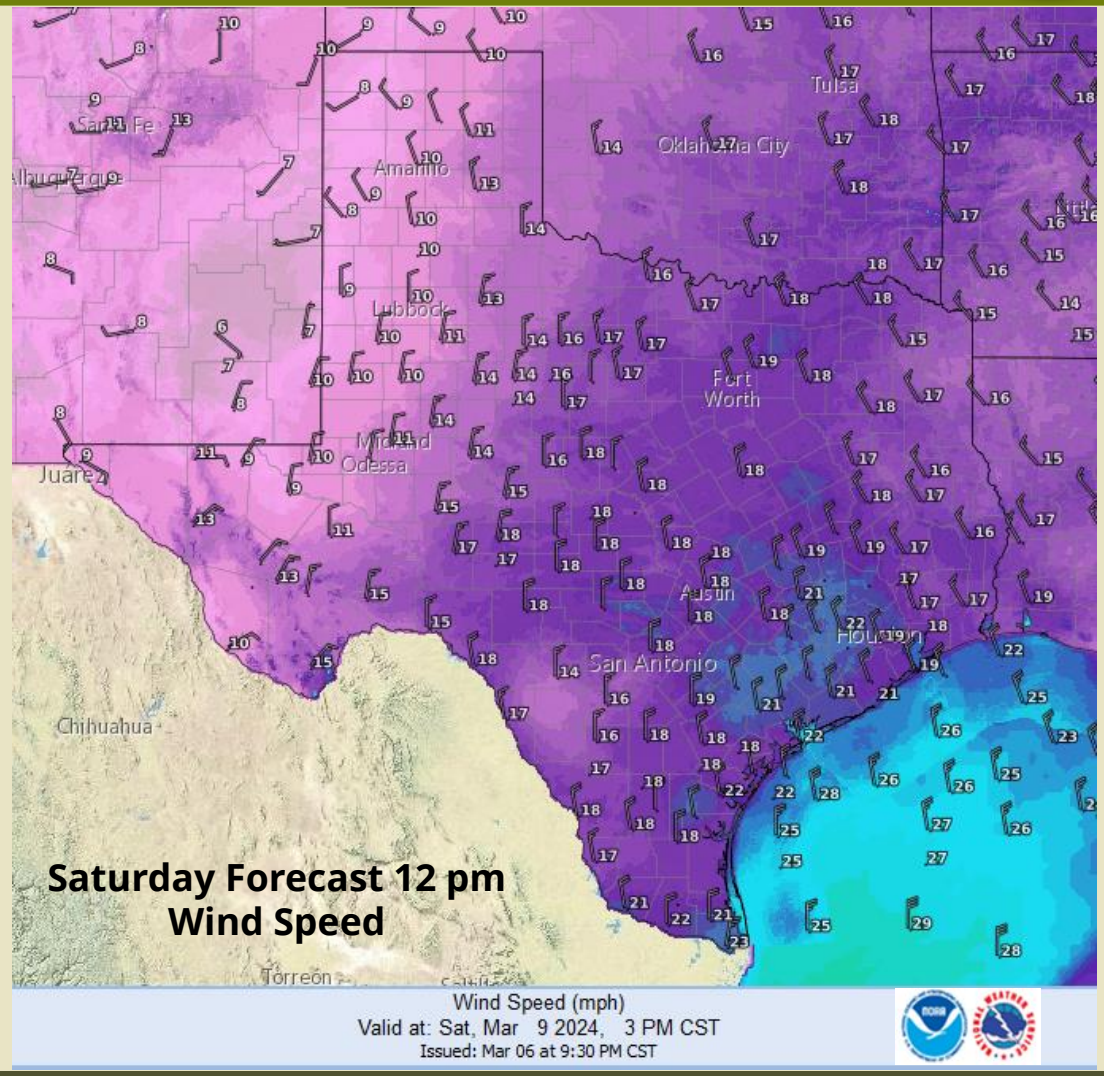
Temperatures are forecast to trend near or slightly below normal Saturday and Sunday. South Texas will observe the warmest maximum temperatures as dry post-frontal conditions linger through Saturday.



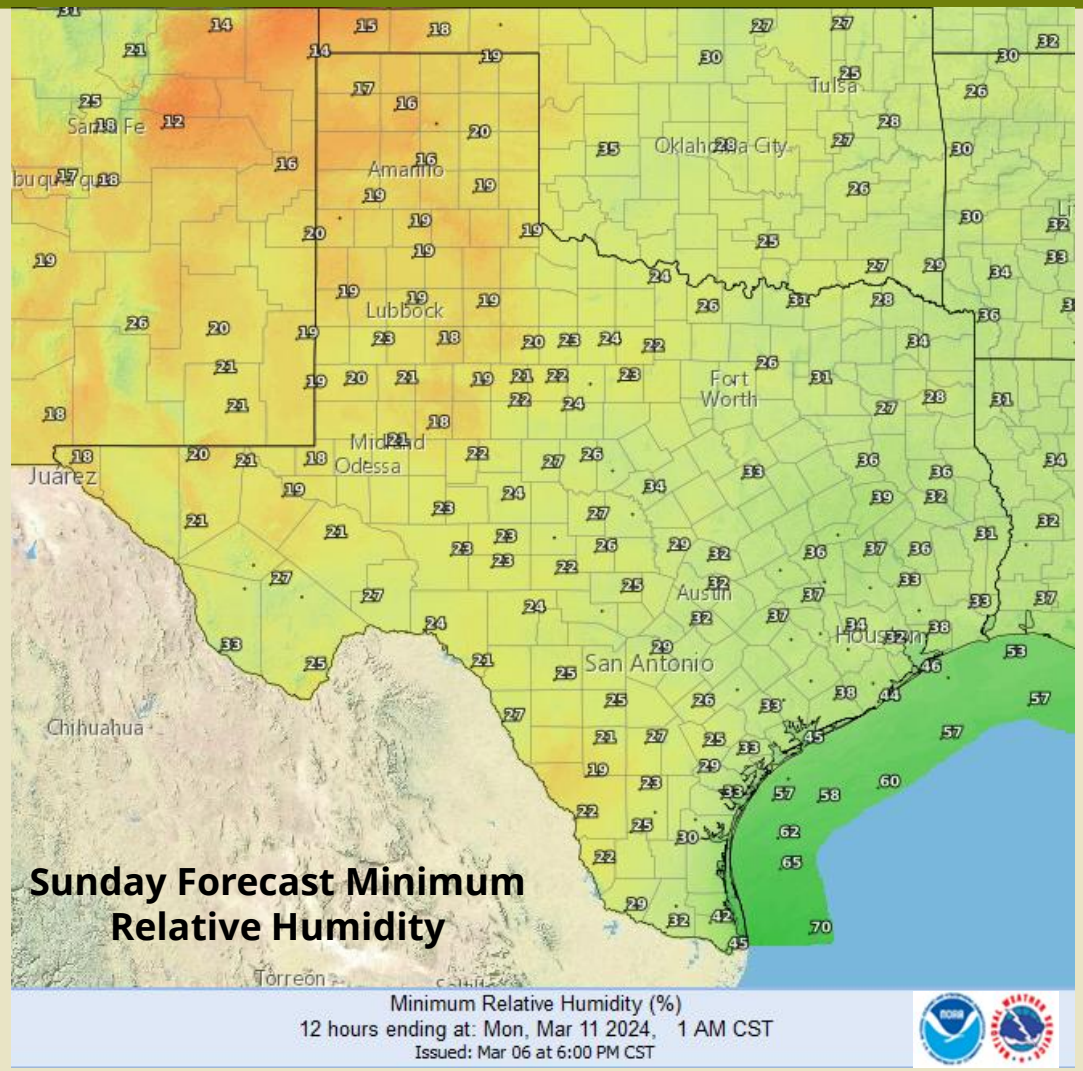


Saturday's post-frontal forecast is for cooler temperatures and elevated minimum relative humidity values across the state. Dry and dormant grasses in South Texas may support low potential for initial attack wildfires due to the breezy, post-frontal environment.

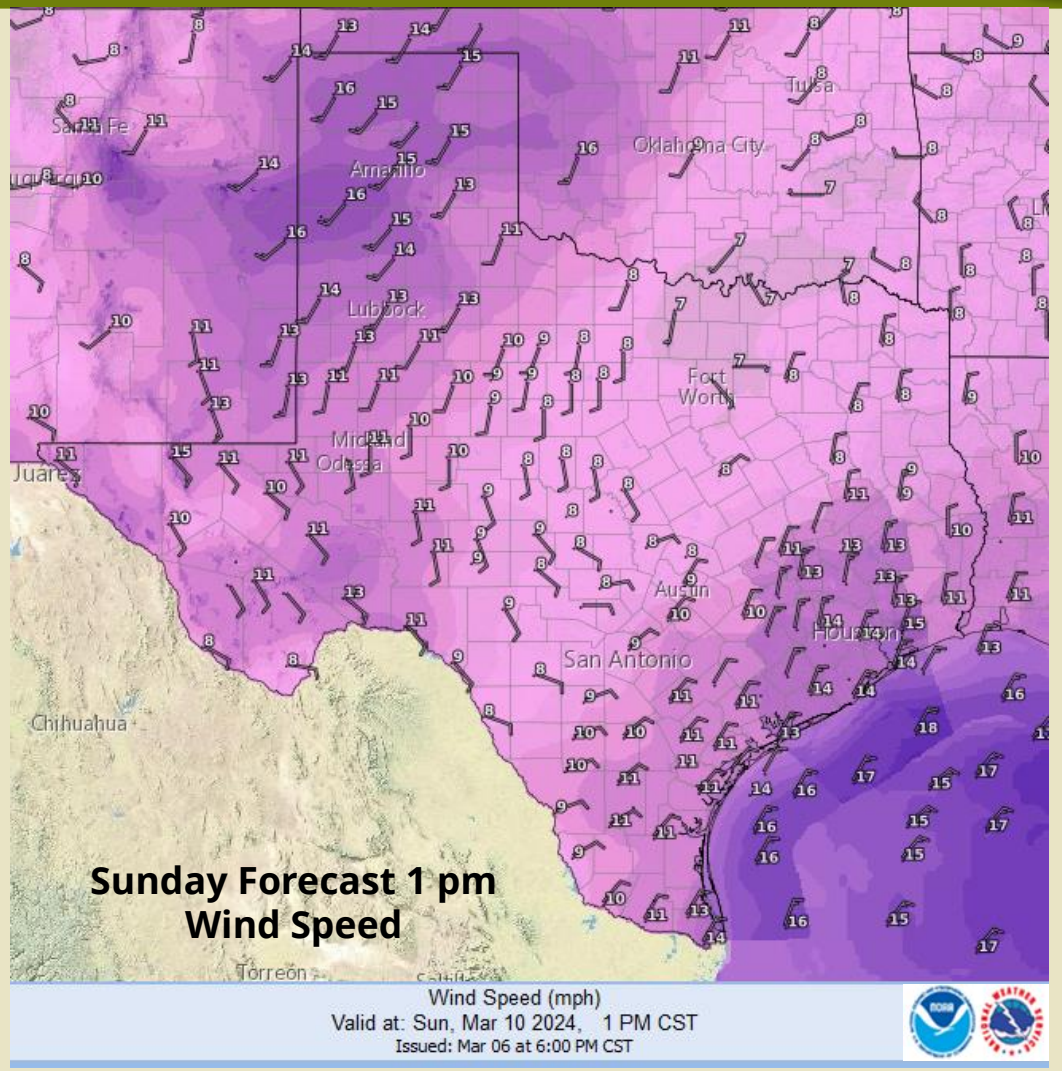




Sunday's fire environment will consist of near normal temperatures, near critical minimum relative humidity values, but wind speeds will be moderate. After one to two days of drying the dormant grasses across the plains may support low potential for initial attack wildfires.

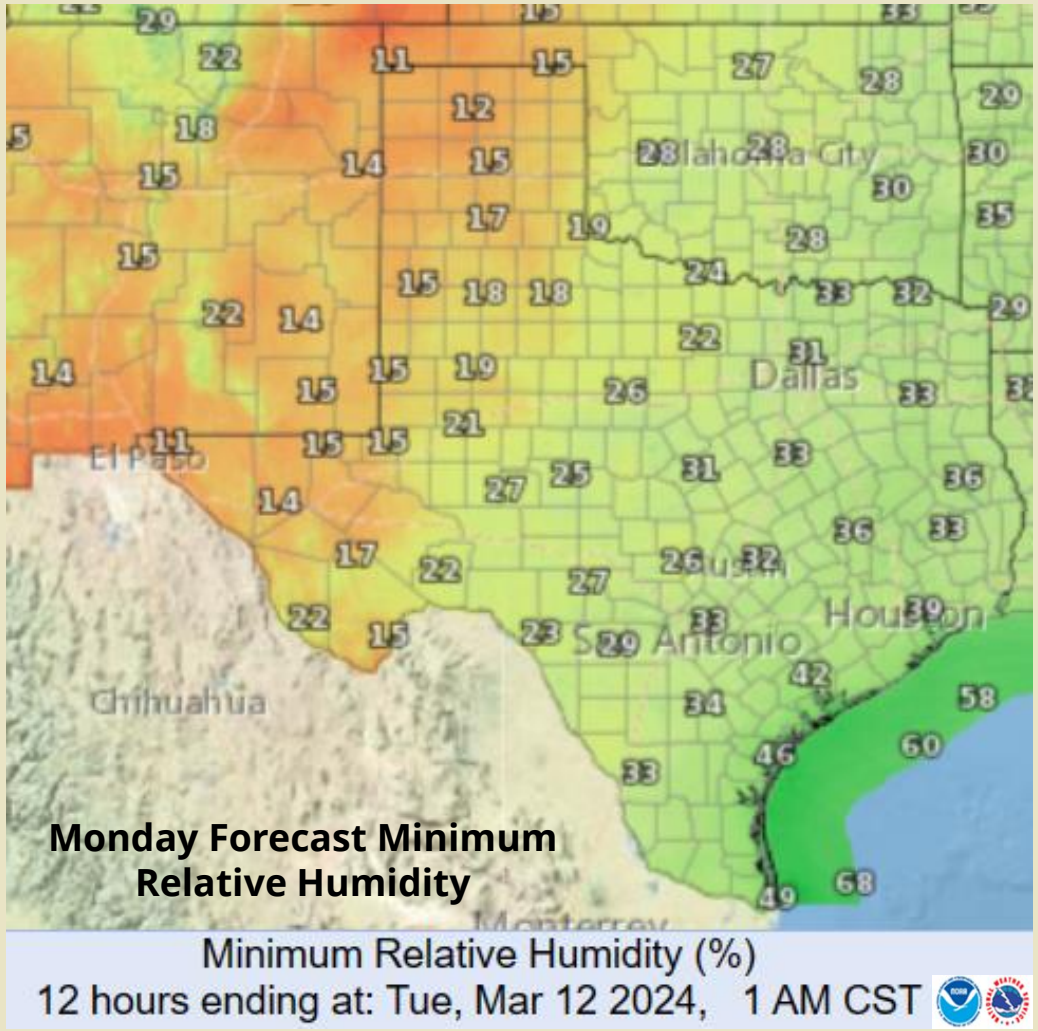


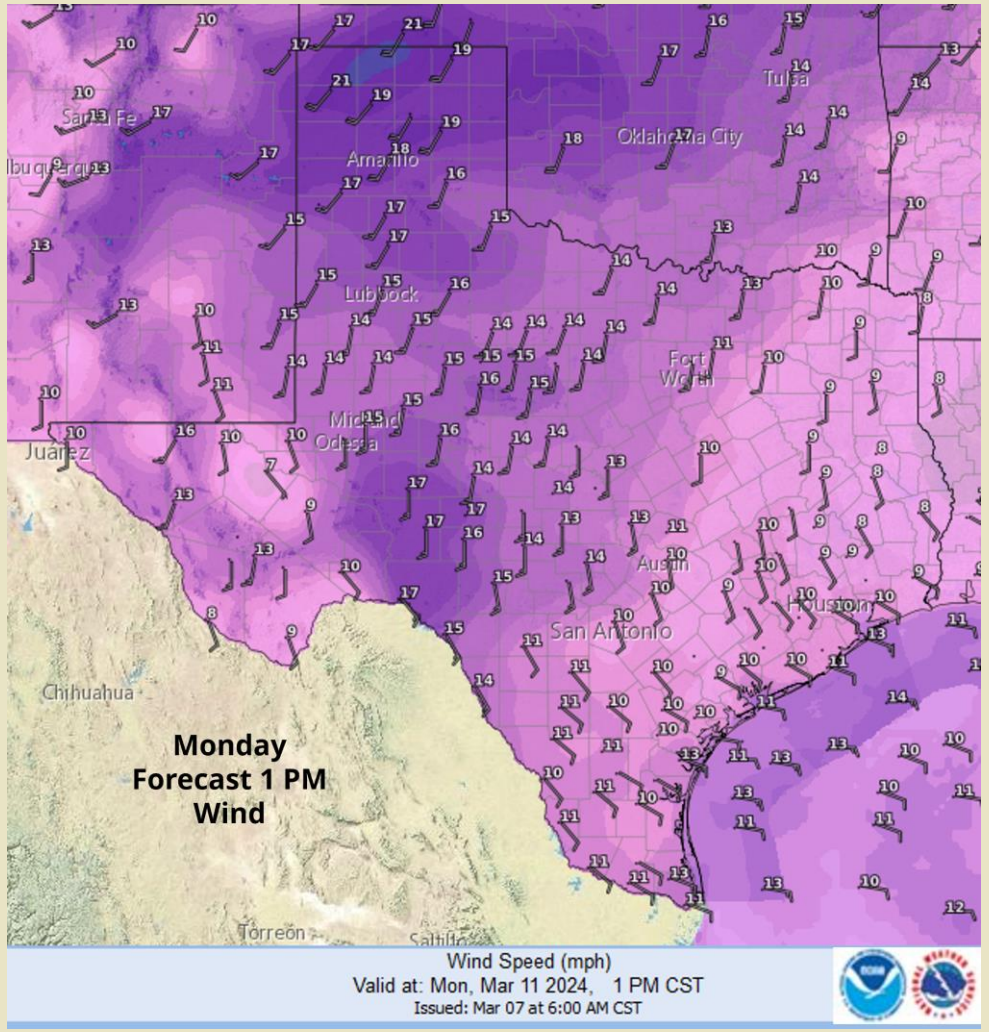
Sunday Forecast Minimum Relative Humidity



Sunday Forecast 1 pm Wind Speed

Monday's fire environment will consist of normal temperatures, critical minimum relative humidity values, and moderate wind speeds. After a couple days of drying, dormant grasses will be available ignition sources across West Texas and the Hill Country. These conditions could support low potential for initial attack wildfires.





Recent observations show some greening of herbaceous fuel in Duval County and Llano county. Any transition green may begin to fade if additional rainfall does not occur over the next 7 days.

Duval County February 28th, 2024 (Walter Flocke)

Llano County March 3rd, 2024 (Travis Sagebiel)

Forecast Energy Release Component trends indicate drying of fuel in the High Plains and Southeast Texas Predictive Services Areas through Monday. A drier post-frontal environment Saturday and Sunday will likely increase ERC values in those regions and across much of the state, drying will be dependent on the rainfall footprint.