Texas Fire Potential Update
October 8th through October 12th
Predictive Services Department

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
Fire Potential Notes

• Periods of elevated and critical fire weather forecast for the next 4 days will combine with dry to critically dry fuels to produce a moderate to high initial attack potential on the western Plains. There will be a low potential for significant fires.

• Above normal temperatures, low minimum RH and fair to poor overnight RH recovery will combine to accelerate drying in live and dead fuels. Fuel dryness will progressively degrade from today through Sunday. Critical fuel dryness has been observed at one fire weather station and will likely appear at others through Sunday.

• Post frontal conditions on Monday will include cooler temperatures, breezy conditions early in the day and a dry airmass. Initial attack fire potential is expected to drop to low.
The last rainfall observed on the High Plains over the last 30 days occurred on September 9th.

As of tomorrow, Friday October 9th, the High Plains will have been rain free for 30 days.
The latest drought monitor shows persistent dryness over the western Plains. 30 day dryness and persistent drought have produced cured grasses and grasses transitioning to cured over much of the western Plains.
Observed Fuel Dryness

Accelerated drying over the next 4 days will expand the extent of dry and critically dry fuels over the western Plains.

These dry and critically dry fuels will align with periods of elevated and critical fire weather to produce a moderate to high potential for initial attack activity.
5 Day Rainfall Forecast Through Tuesday AM

No rainfall is forecast for the western Plains with the approach and passage of the next cold front.

Rainfall from Hurricane Delta is forecast along the Louisiana and Texas border.
Forecast Temperatures

Well above normal temperatures are forecast for the weekend. Highs in the 90’s will contribute to the continued accelerated drying of live and dead fuels that began on Wednesday. These above normal temperatures will also contribute to higher probabilities of ignitions.
ERC values in the High Plains are likely to reach the 90th percentile over the weekend.

ERC values in the High Plains, Southern Plains and Trans Pecos are trending at or above 20 year maximum values (red line) for early October.

The sharp increase in ERC yesterday signals the beginning of a period of accelerated drying.
The Storm Prediction Center has forecast periods of elevated fire weather for today and tomorrow. Dry fuels, drought cured grasses and elevated fire weather will combine to produce a moderate potential for initial attack fires. These fires will exhibit some resistance to control with higher rates of spread and persistent heat in large dead fuels.

Thursday

Friday
Thursday’s Elevated Fire Weather Elements
Thursday’s Initial Attack Potential

Moderate initial attack potential will be present today where High Fire Danger and 75th percentile or higher ERC come together.
A fast moving, dry cold front will approach the state on Sunday. Prefrontal conditions that include above normal temperatures, Min RH below 15% and windspeed above 20 mph are forecast for Sunday afternoon. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) has outlined an area of critical fire weather (70%) and elevated fire weather (40%) for Sunday. This critical to elevated fire weather over spreading fuels that have been drying at an accelerated rate for consecutive days will produce a high potential for initial attack activity.
Sunday’s Critical Fire Weather Elements

Expect sustained windspeed above 20 mph and minimum RH below 15% on Sunday afternoon. Initial attack potential will be high where cured grasses are in place.
Post Frontal Fire Potential

The cold front will pass through the western Plains late Sunday into Monday morning and will shift the winds out of the north. Monday afternoon temps are forecast in the 60’s and RH will be in the 15-20% range. North winds will be breezy early but will slow to around 15 mph during the afternoon. The cooler temperatures and decreasing afternoon winds will contribute to a low potential for initial attack activity.

Monday AM Surface Forecast