Texas Fire Potential Update
December 16th-December 22nd 2019
Predictive Services Department

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
Fire Potential Notes

• Initial attack potential should remain low most of week for the state with the exception on Thursday across the Western Plains where IA potential will be moderate. Limited rainfall is forecast for the state this week even with the passage of cold fronts Monday and Friday. Surface fuel will continue to dry Tuesday through Friday across much of the state as temperature moderate back to normal. By the weekend, above normal temperatures will be common across the state.

• Increased post frontal wind across South, Central, and East Texas, will not align with low relative humidity Monday and Tuesday. Cured grass availability will increase Thursday for the Western Plains when increased wind occurs.
Initial attack activity was low across the state last week with increased fuel moisture and absence of elevated fire weather.
Last Monday and Tuesday’s cold front produced 1”-0.5” of precipitation across parts of the Trans Pecos, Western Plains, and East Texas. Rainfall potential this week will be Monday and Friday with the passage of two cold fronts. Precipitation amounts will be light and confined to the Eastern third of the state.
Limited rainfall over the last 30 days has produced a large area of 25% or less than normal rainfall for South, Central, and East Texas. Over the last 60-days, an axis of 50-25% of normal rainfall is present from Eagle Pass extending into Northeast Texas around the Tyler/Longview area. Parts of the High Plains are observing 50-25% of normal precipitation deficits over the last 60-days. Rainfall for the next 7-days will not produce widespread improvement toward precipitation deficits.
Monday’s cold front will produce increased post frontal wind Monday, but lingering cloud cover and cooler temperatures will keep relative humidity values above 35% for much of the state. RH values Areas near the Rio Grande Plains may approach 25% Monday.
Forecast surface fuel moisture in 1-hour fuel is at or above 5% and will limited fire occurrence in cured grasses across much of the state Monday. Timber and brush litter fuel have above normal moisture as a majority of stations have a forecast 100-hr fuel moisture at or above the 51st percentile (green). Stations forecast at the 25% or less percentile (yellow) should gain moisture Monday with cooler temperatures and excellent overnight relative humidity recoveries.
Post frontal conditions will persist into Tuesday. As surface high pressure settles in, sunny conditions and drier air across much of the state will begin a period of drying this week.
Drying mid-week

Temperatures will begin to moderate by the middle of the week. Dry air will remain in place producing lower minimum RH values. Moderate drying will occur in surface fuels.
ERC values will decrease Monday in the post-frontal environment with cooler temperatures, increased surface moisture, and cloud cover. ERC values will begin to increase starting tomorrow and continue into the weekend with increasing temperatures and dry air present. ERC values will remain below the 90th percentile through the weekend.

Above Normal: 8 PSA / Near Normal: 4 PSA / Below Normal: 2 PSA

ERC Seasonal Graphs
WESTERN HILL COUNTRY Predictive Service Area
2001-2019

1 Day Periods
Fuel Model: G
6920 Wx Observations
Generated on 12/15/2019-16:00

https://ticc.tamu.edu/Documents/PredictiveServices/Fuels/TXERCmap.htm
Pre-frontal wind will increase across the Western Plains ahead of Friday’s cold front. Poor overnight RH recoveries Thursday morning will likely increase the availability of cured grasses on Thursday. IA potential will increase to moderate across the Western Plains on Thursday. Winds will decrease to near 10 mph on Friday.
Friday’s cold front may produce some light precipitation across the Eastern half of the state on Friday. The weekend will be dry with temperatures warming to above normal statewide.
Above normal temperatures will be widespread across the state this upcoming weekend. Relative humidity values in the 15-25% range will be common across the Western Plains. Initial attack activity should remain low across the Western Plains this weekend as wind speeds are forecast to stay below 15 mph. IA potential will be low for the rest of the state as wind remains less than 10 mph.