Texas Fire Potential Update
June 29th-July 2nd, 2020
Predictive Services Department

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE
Fire Potential Notes

• The combination of drying fuel, well above normal temperatures, and periods of elevated to critical fire weather will produce moderate initial attack potential in the western half of the High Plains, Southern Plains and Western Hill Country Monday and Tuesday.

• High drying potential will be present in the western third of the state through Thursday due to well above normal temperatures, little forecast rainfall, and the presence of dry air. Any on going green up from recent rainfall will likely fade. The rest of the state will have moderate drying potential.

• A dryline may produce isolated thunderstorms in parts of the Western Hill Country and Rolling Plains. Dry fuel beds are receptive to lightning ignitions in the Western Hill Country.
A moist fire environment decreased fire activity last week and over the weekend. The return of well above normal temperatures and dry conditions will likely increase initial attack fire activity heading into the July 4th weekend.
The mosaic pattern of rainfall produced variable rainfall amounts across the Western third of the state over the past 14 days. Cured grasses are likely present where rainfall amounts are less than 1 inch, transition where rainfall amounts are 1-1 ½ inches, and effective green where rainfall amounts are greater than 2 inches. Any ongoing green up will likely stall this week with the return of hot and dry conditions.
The Standard Precipitation Index Blend (SPI Blend) is a drought monitoring tool that places higher importance on recent precipitation within a time period to describe dryness or wetness.

Areas in the western third of the state currently observing extreme (red) or severe dryness (orange) on the 30-day SPI blend map have the greatest underlying risk for fire occurrence. The return of the upper level ridge will result in little forecast rainfall this week, increasing the coverage of dryness for much of the state.
Dry fuel is currently observed in the western half of the High Plains into the Southern Plains, and parts of the Western Hill Country. The Bootleg fire weather station is currently reporting critically dry.

These areas of dry fuel will support moderate initial attack potential Monday and Tuesday due to elevated to near critical fire weather. Low to moderate initial attack potential will persist in these same areas Wednesday and Thursday as wind speeds decrease.

A few additional stations in the Western Plains and Western Hill Country will likely observe dry fuel by Thursday due to forecast well above normal temperatures and dry air.

Significant fire potential will remain low through Thursday. The rest of the state will have low initial attack potential.
The upper level ridge is forecast to expand into the southern plains this week resulting in increasing temperatures and dry conditions for most of the state. This ridge will likely persist into the weekend keeping at least the western half the state dry.

Forecast rainfall this week will be associated with a dryline, that may produce isolated thunderstorms in parts of the Western Hill County and Rolling Plains Monday through Wednesday.
Well above normal temperatures are forecast across the western third of the state Monday through Thursday. The return of temperatures near 100°F will likely stall any ongoing green up in herbaceous fuel in the Western Plains.
A dryline will push east Monday and Tuesday across the western third of the state which may generate isolated thunderstorms. Any storms that develop will likely produce strong outflow winds with gusts near 60 mph. Increased wind speed and changes in wind direction will have the potential to rapidly increase a fire’s resistance to control.

Dry fuel beds in the Western Hill Country will be receptive to lightning ignitions and have the potential for holdover fires to emerge a day later.
Overnight relative humidity recoveries will be fair to poor west of the dryline this week, decreasing 10-hr fuel moisture. Low 10-hr fuel moisture indicates an earlier and later burn period.

When forecast 10-hour fuel moisture percentiles are at or the below the 25th percentile, that is a good indicator of poor overnight relative humidity recoveries and increased availability of cured grasses.

https://ticc.tamu.edu/PredictiveServices/default.aspx
The combination of dry fuel, pockets of cured/transition grasses, well above normal temperatures, and elevated fire weather will produce moderate initial attack potential in the far western plains and Western Hill Country Monday.
The combination of dry fuel, pockets of cured/transition grasses, well above normal temperatures, and elevated fire to near critical weather will continue Tuesday, producing moderate initial attack potential in the western plains and Western Hill Country.
Dry air will remain across the western third of the state Wednesday with a slight increase of surface moisture by Thursday. The combination of dry air and well above normal temperatures will promote high drying of surface fuel for the western third of the state. Initial attack potential will be low to moderate in the Western Plains and Western Hill Country as wind speed decreases Wednesday and Thursday.
Rainfall over the weekend (over 1 inch observed at Fort Davis and Panther Junction RAWS June 27th) has decreased ERC values back to near normal. Drying this week will likely increase ERC values back above normal, but remain well below the 90th percentile.
ERC values have rebounded back above normal in the High Plains PSA mostly due western half of the High Plains receiving less rainfall last week and the return of hot and dry conditions. High drying potential due to well above normal temperatures and very dry air will continue to increase ERC values in the High Plains this week. The Southern Plains PSA ERC seasonal trend is also above normal and will continue to increase this week.
The Western Hill Country will likely have moderate to high drying potential this week depending on rainfall from thunderstorm activity and how far west the dryline retreats at night. The Western Hill Country is entering the normal period drying and increasing ERC values as indicated by the average line.