



FEMA



Prepared by
Melissa Beat

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh.





Summary

- **Winter Weather:**

- **Arctic front is expected to bring a much colder air mass across FEMA 6 later this week.**
- **Moisture originating from the Baja region may interact with this cold front, bringing the potential for either snow, sleet, or freezing rain for portions of FEMA 6 on Fri-Sun.**
- **Timing of the front is uncertain, which leads to high uncertainty for precip type and amounts for later this week and weekend.**
- **Single digit lows next week in TX, OK, and AR may lead additional impacts if there are power outages.**
- **Travel impacts from weekend snow and/or ice may linger into Monday for AR, TX, and LA.**





FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Next 7 days

	Tuesday, Jan 20	Wednesday, Jan 21	Thursday, Jan 22	Friday, Jan 23	Saturday, Jan 24	Sunday, Jan 25	Monday, Jan 26
Severe Storms							
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding							
Winter Weather				NM, OK, AR, TX, LA	NM, OK, AR, TX, LA	AR, TX, LA NM, OK	AR, TX, LA
Fire Weather							
River Flooding							

Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.

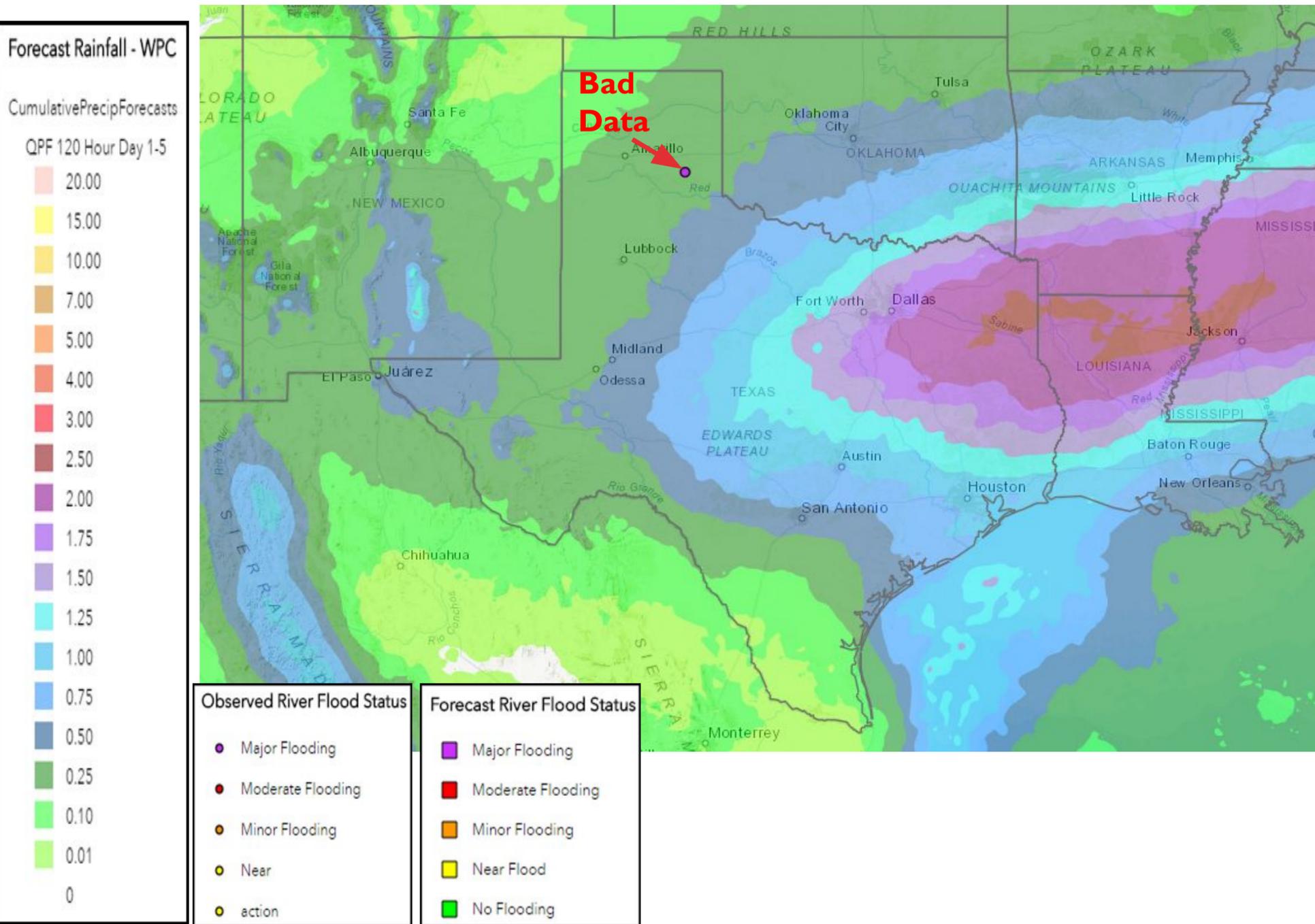
For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

Risk Levels	Little to None	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
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5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Note: Even though the image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1-2 days of rainfall

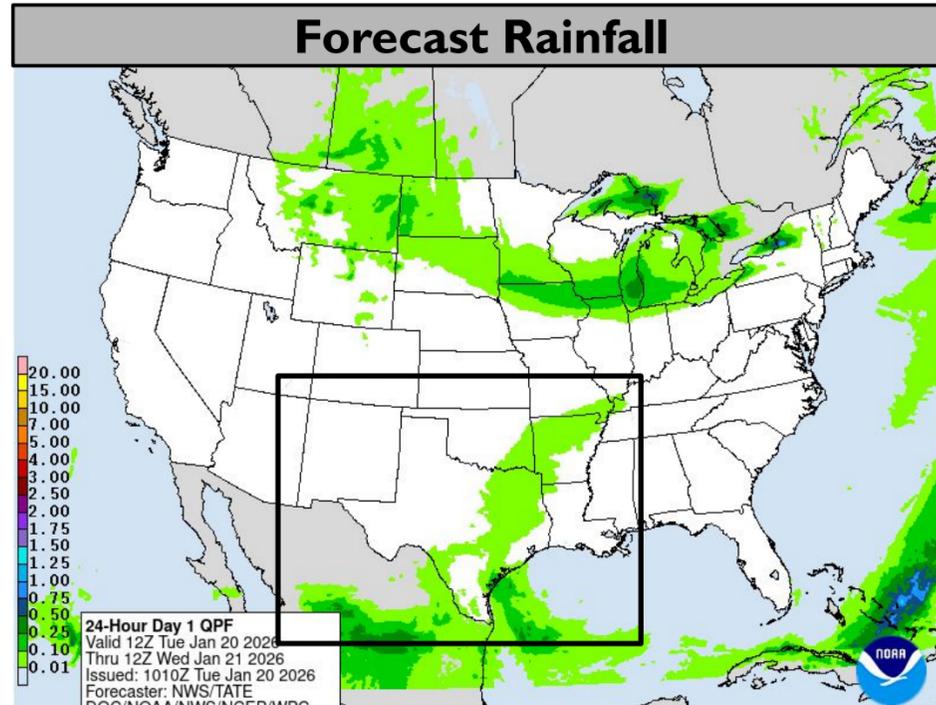
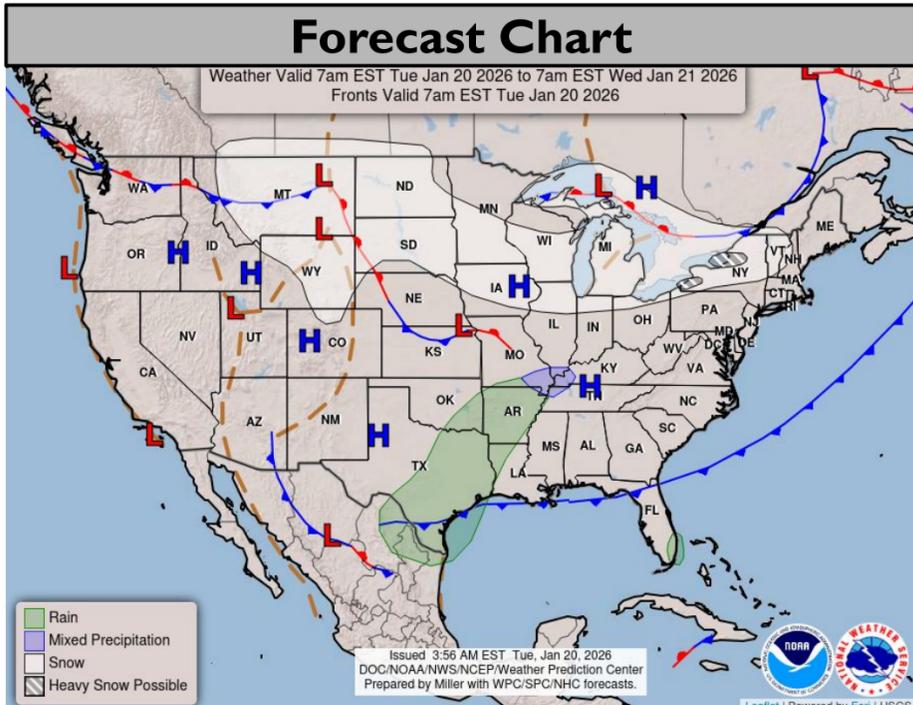


No significant flooding is expected.

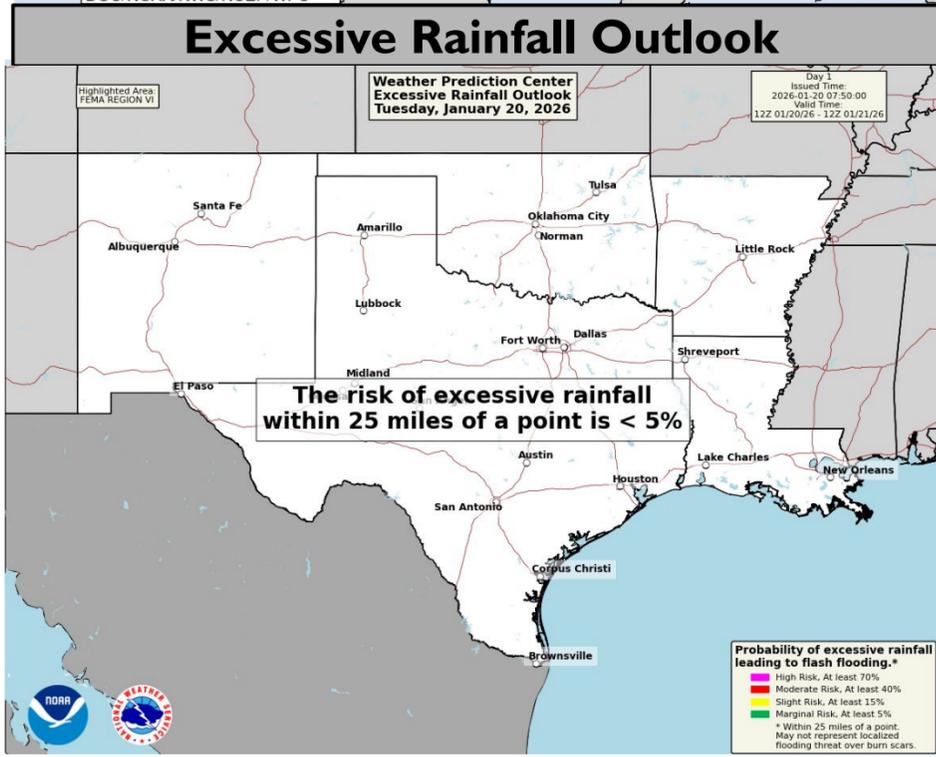
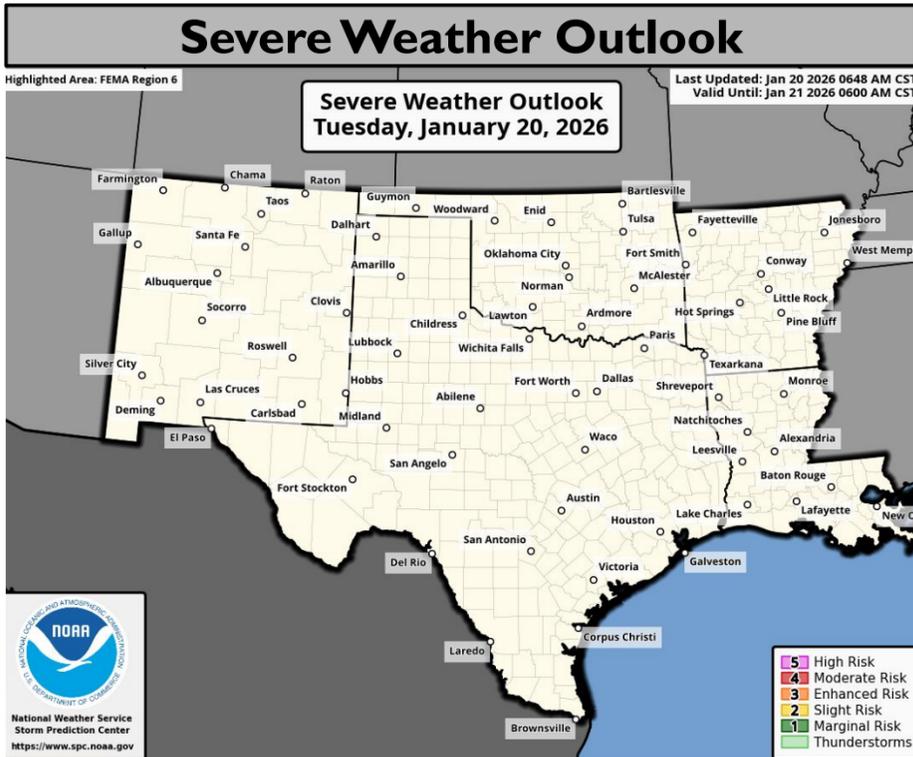
Note: Numerical levels (e.g. level 1 of 4) will not be assigned to riverine flooding due to the varying levels of impacts across flood categories.



Today's Weather

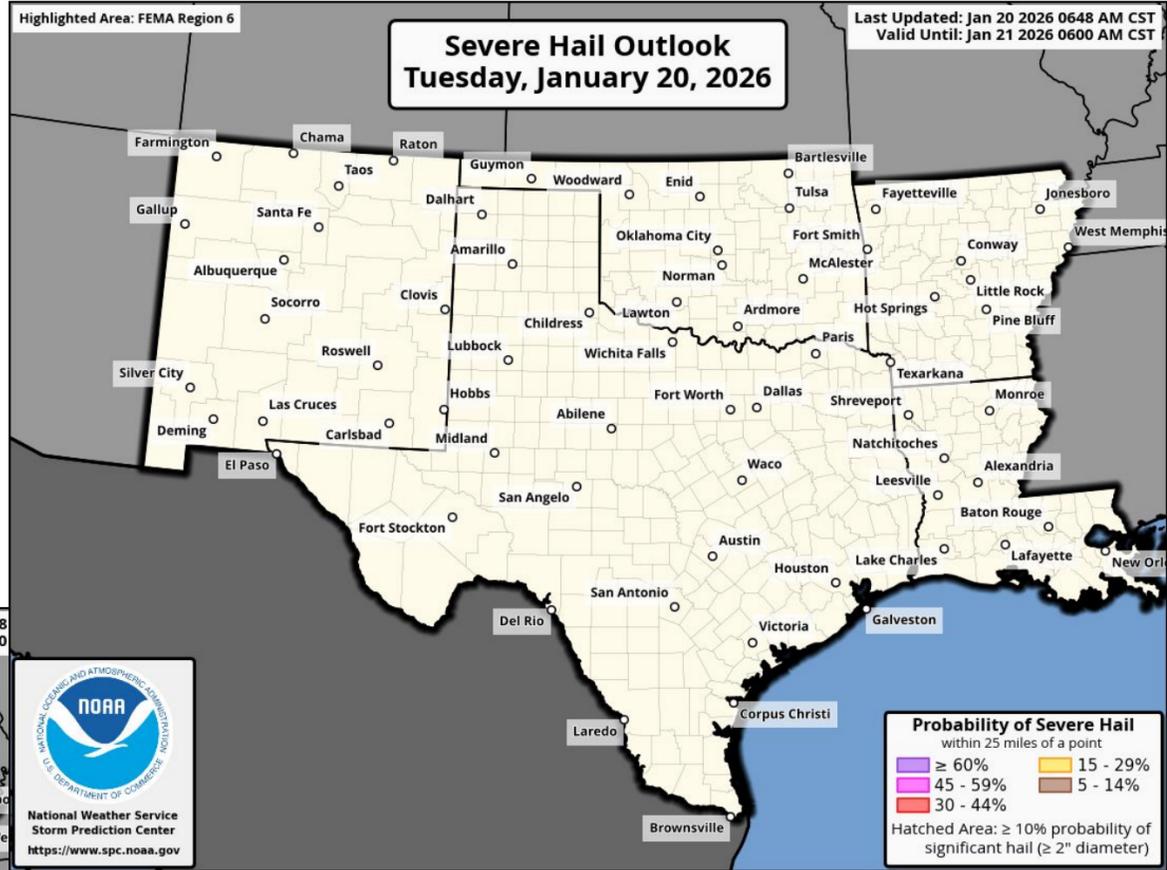
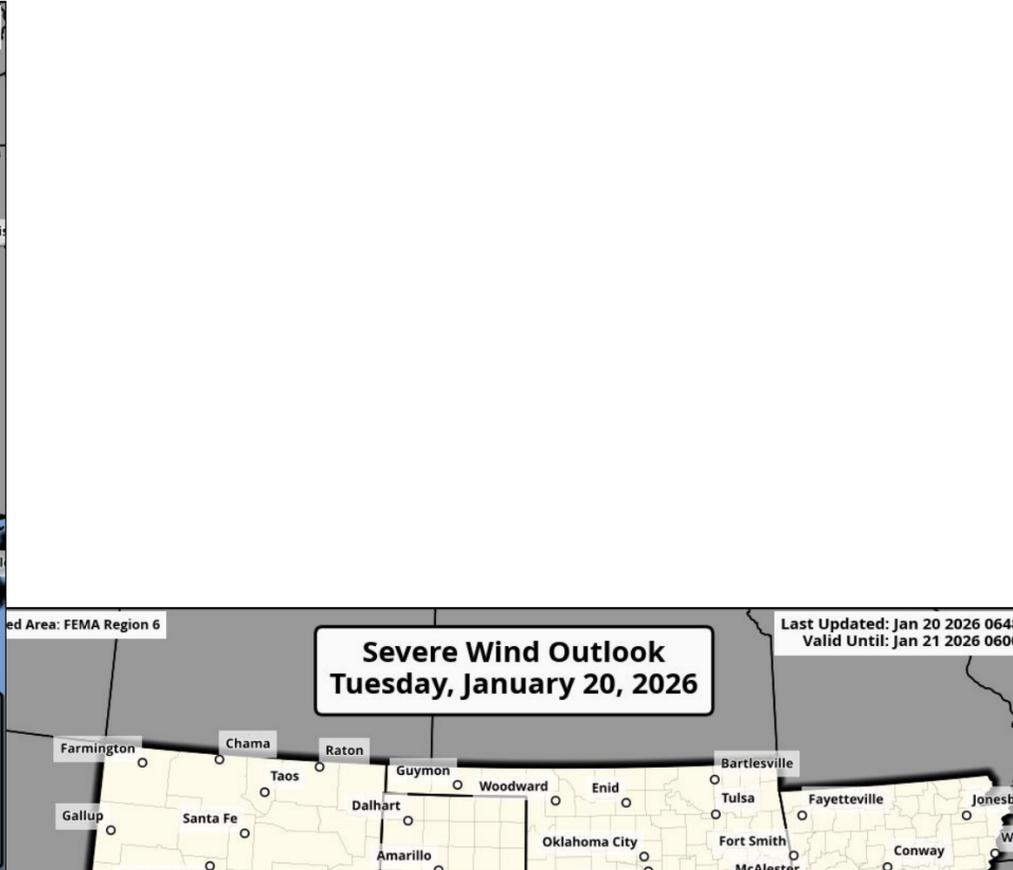
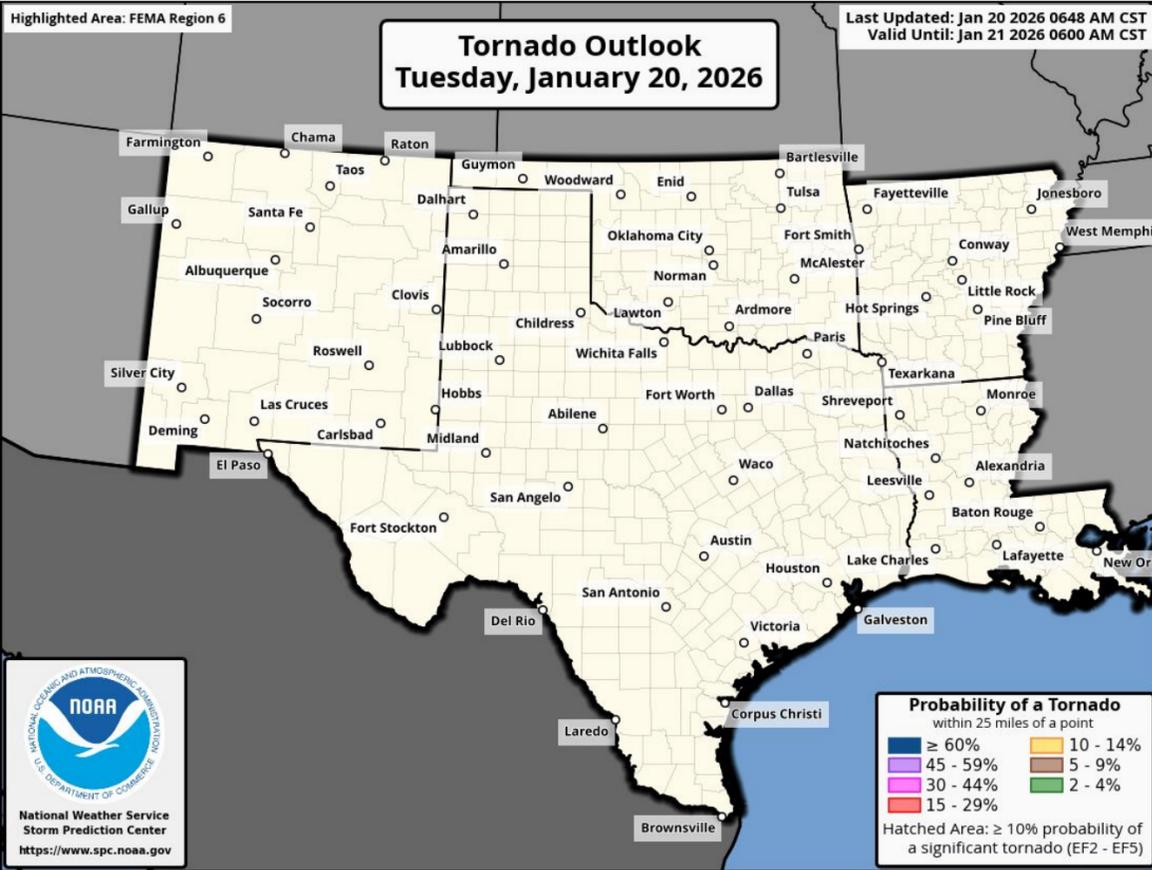


No significant weather expected.



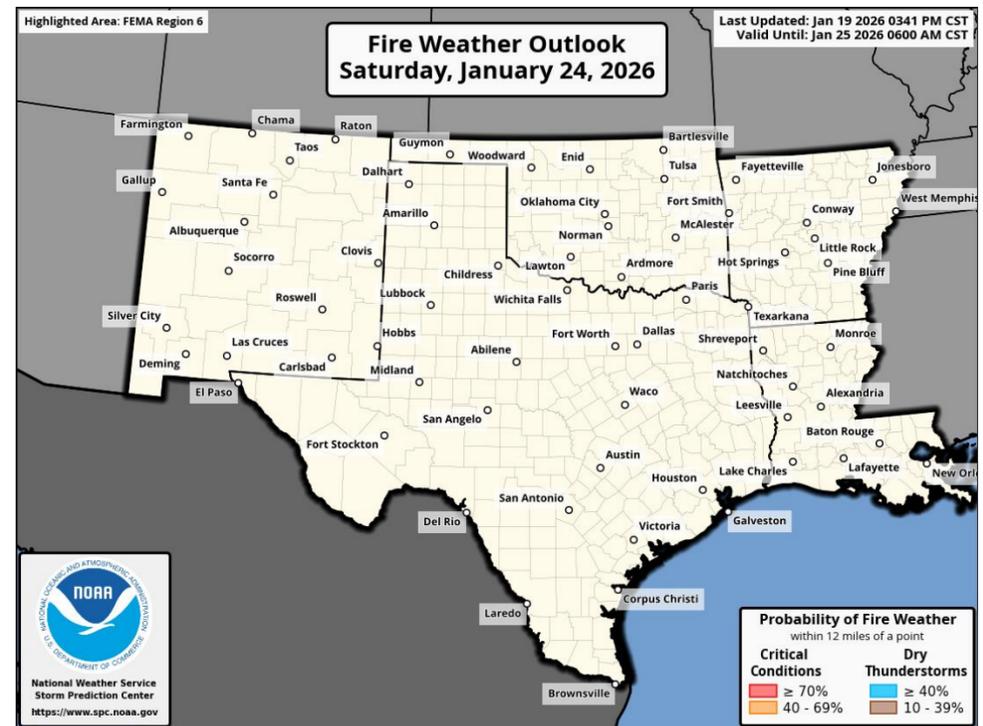
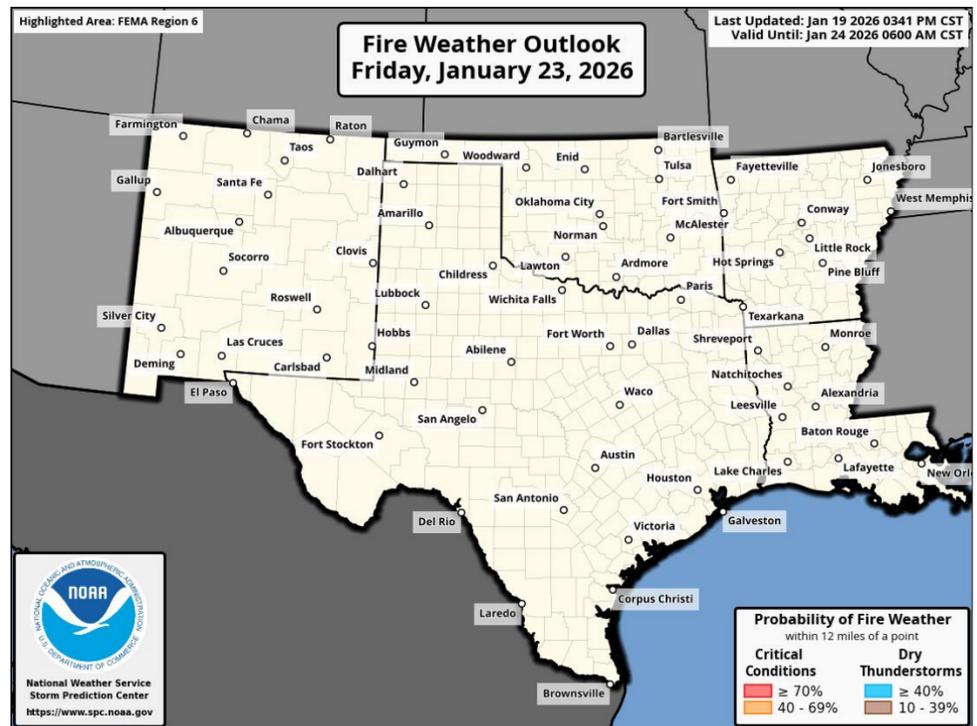
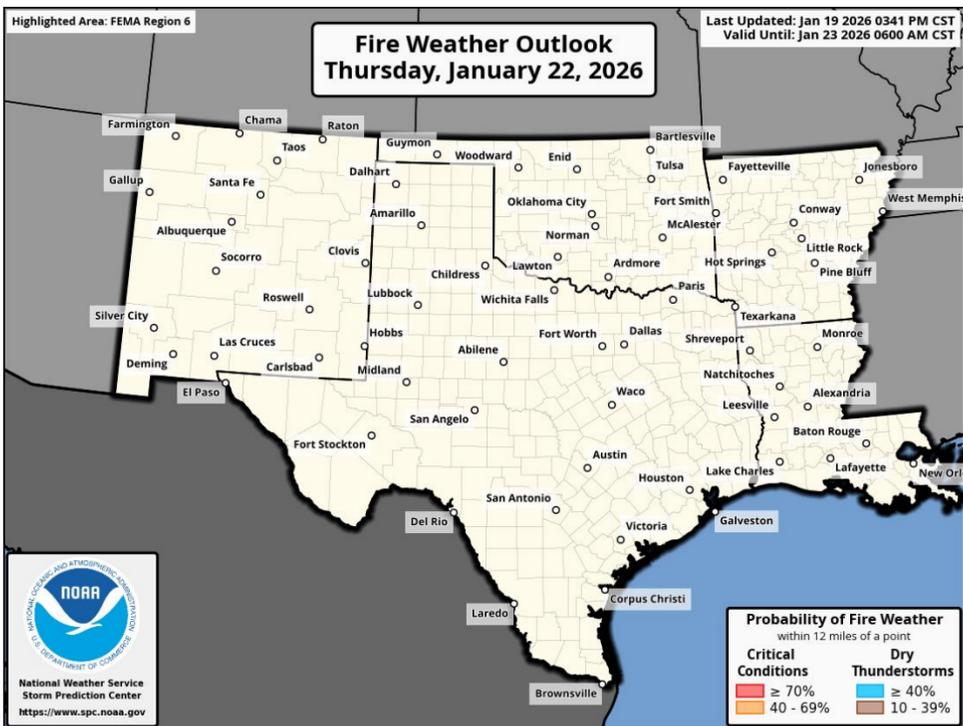
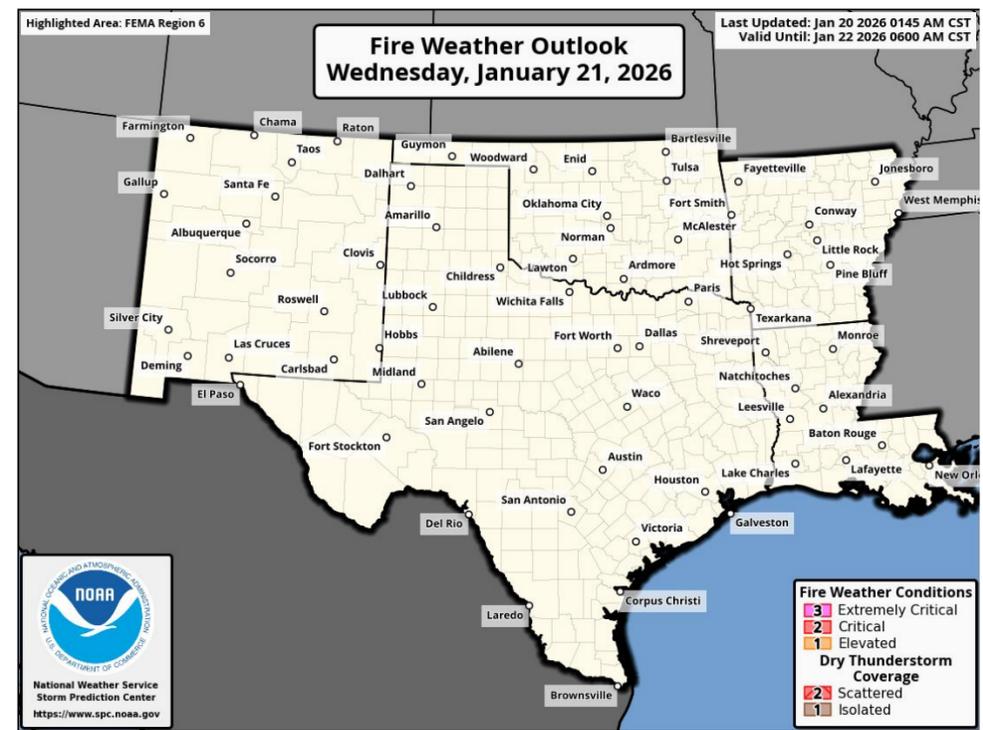
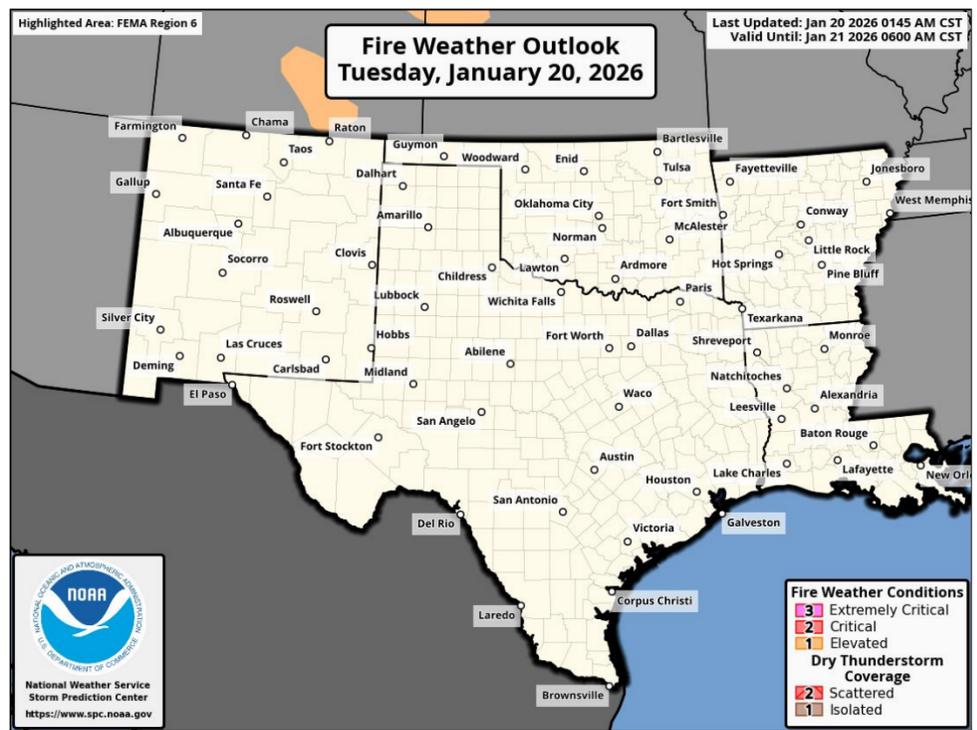
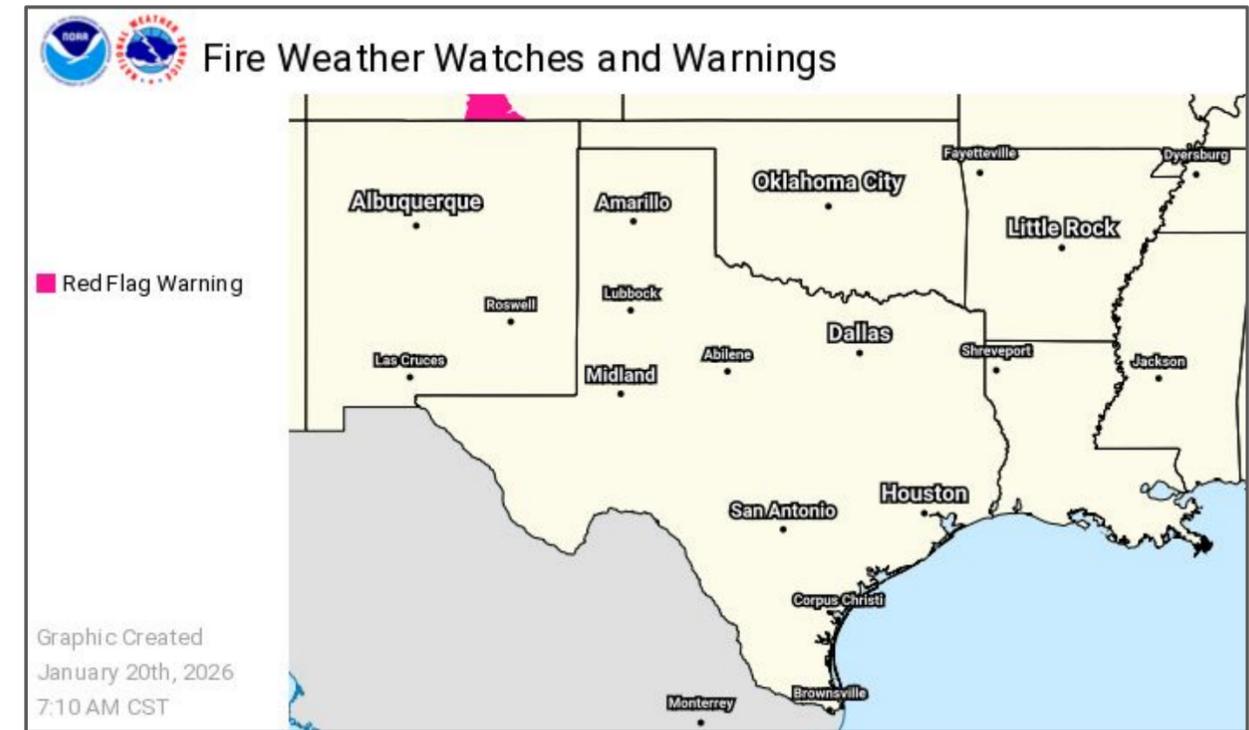


Today's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities





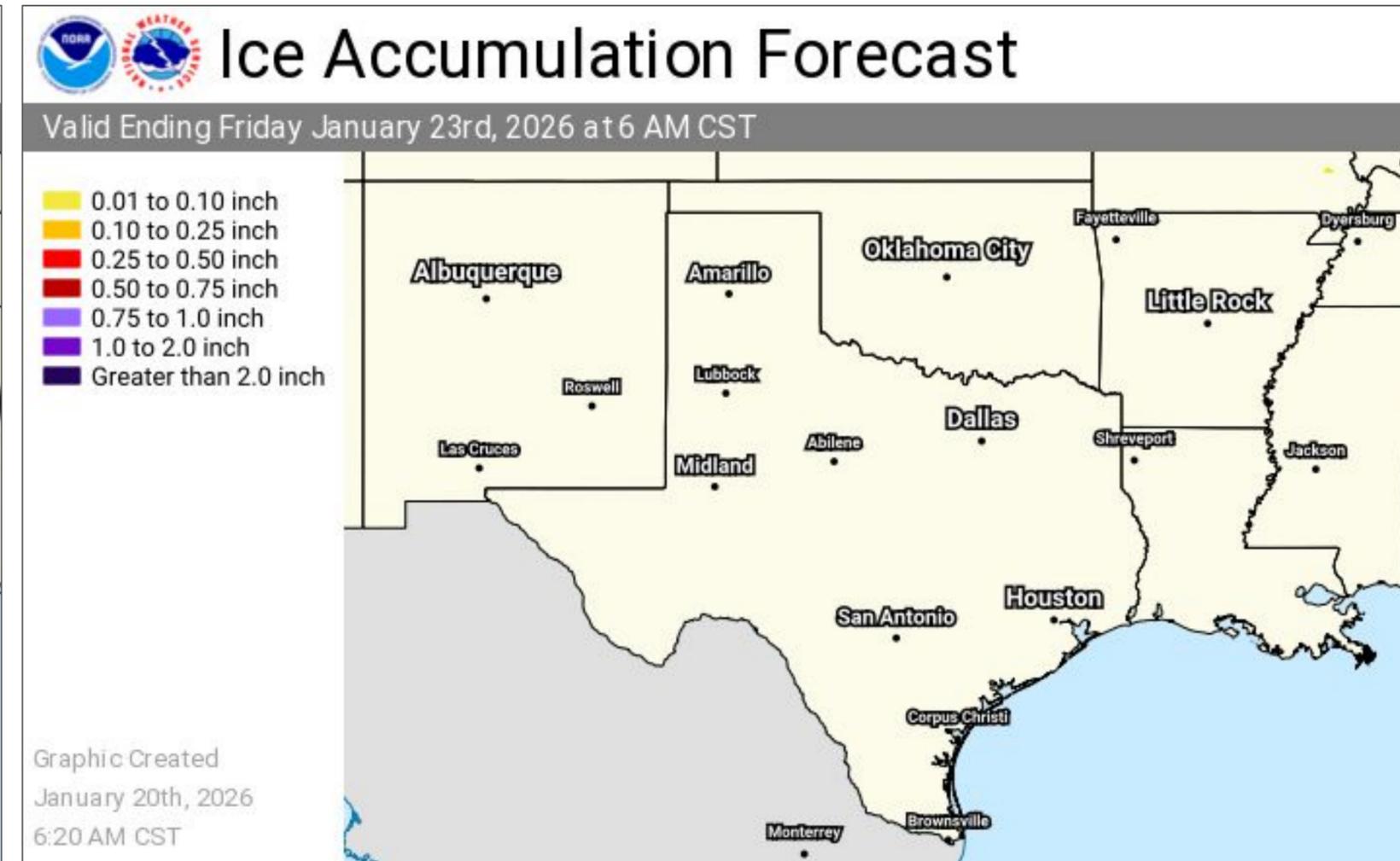
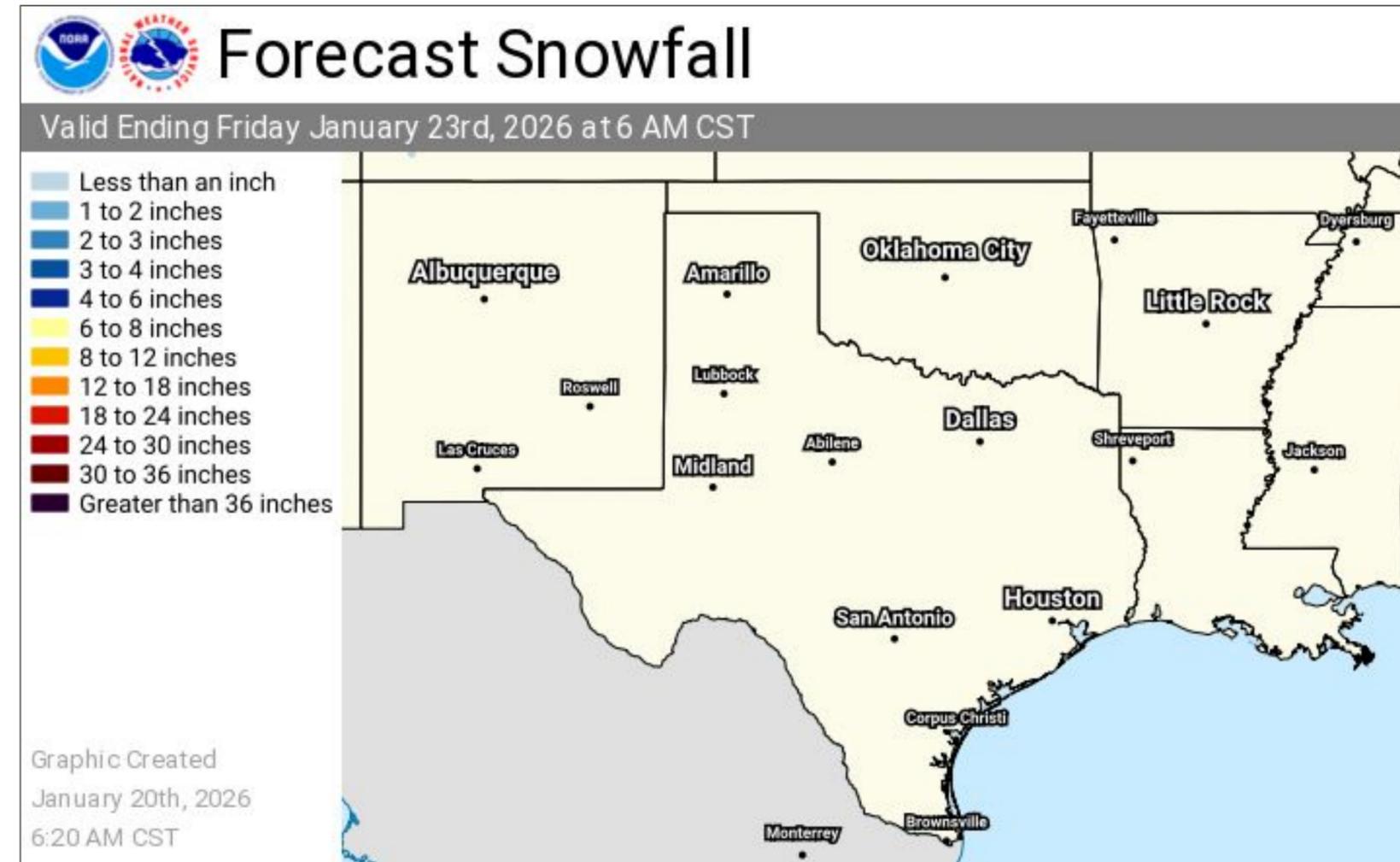
Fire Weather Outlooks





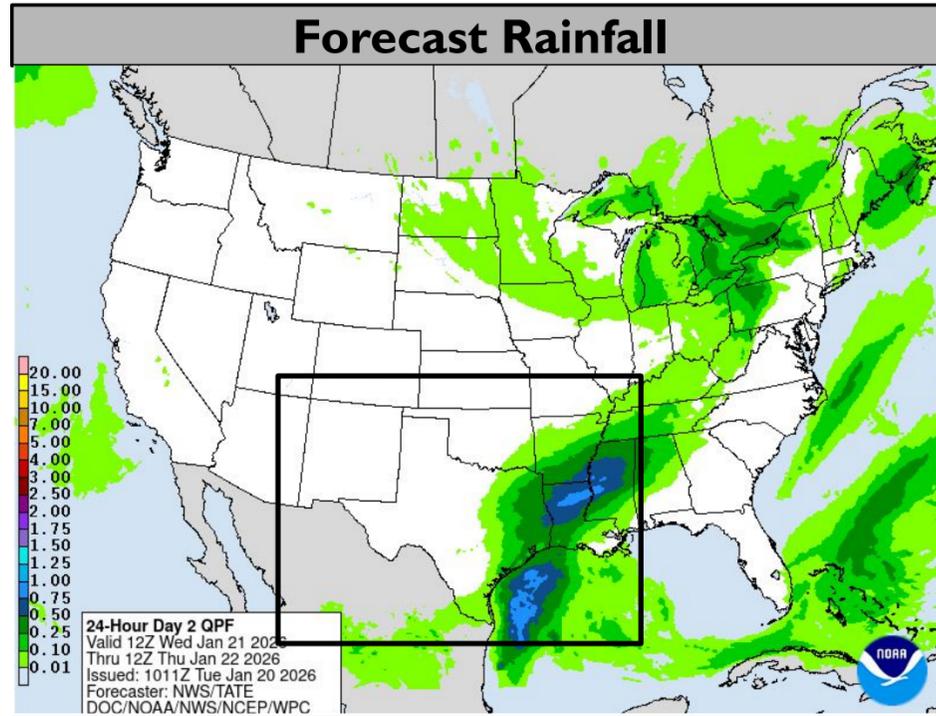
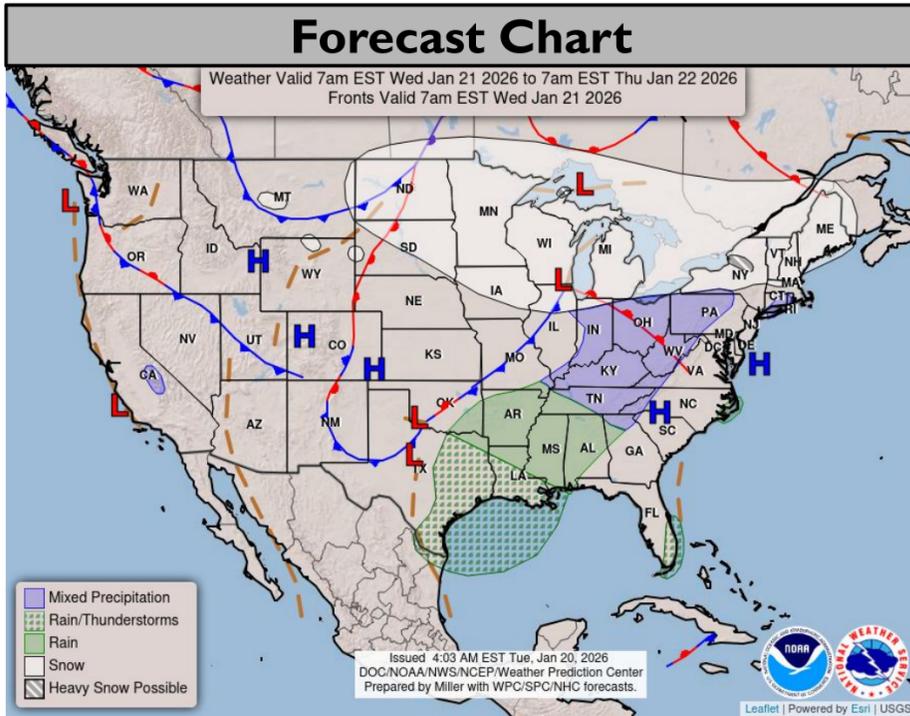
Winter Weather

Through the next 3 days

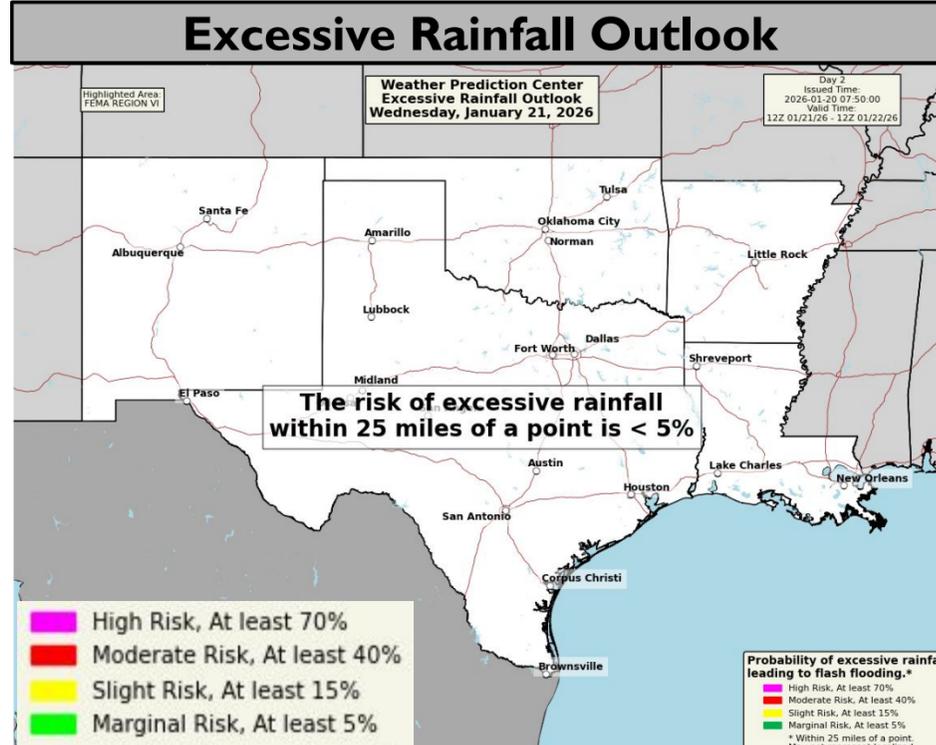
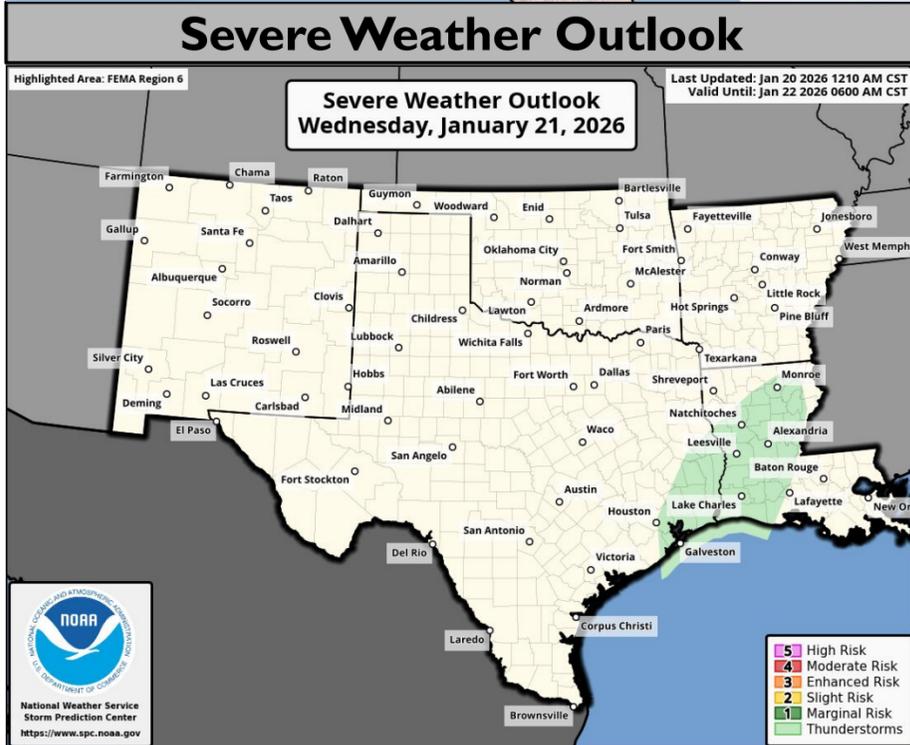




Tomorrow's Weather

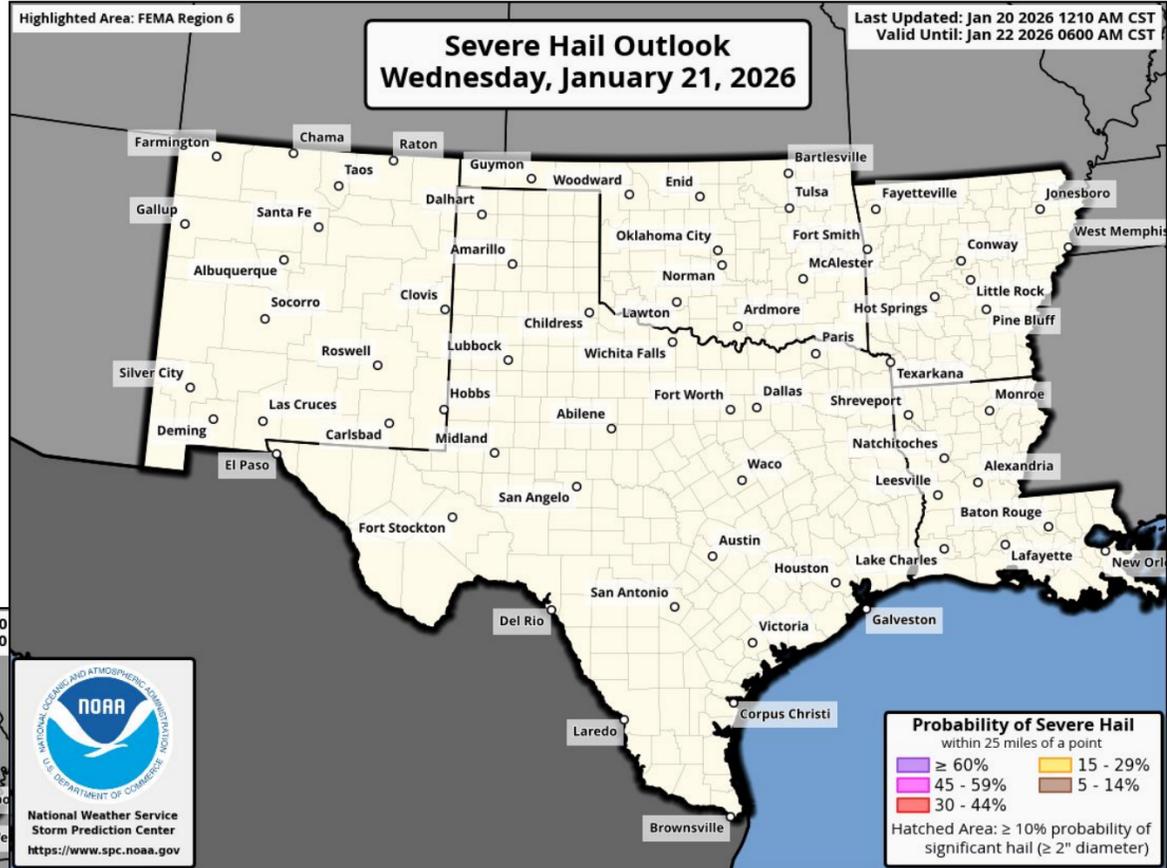
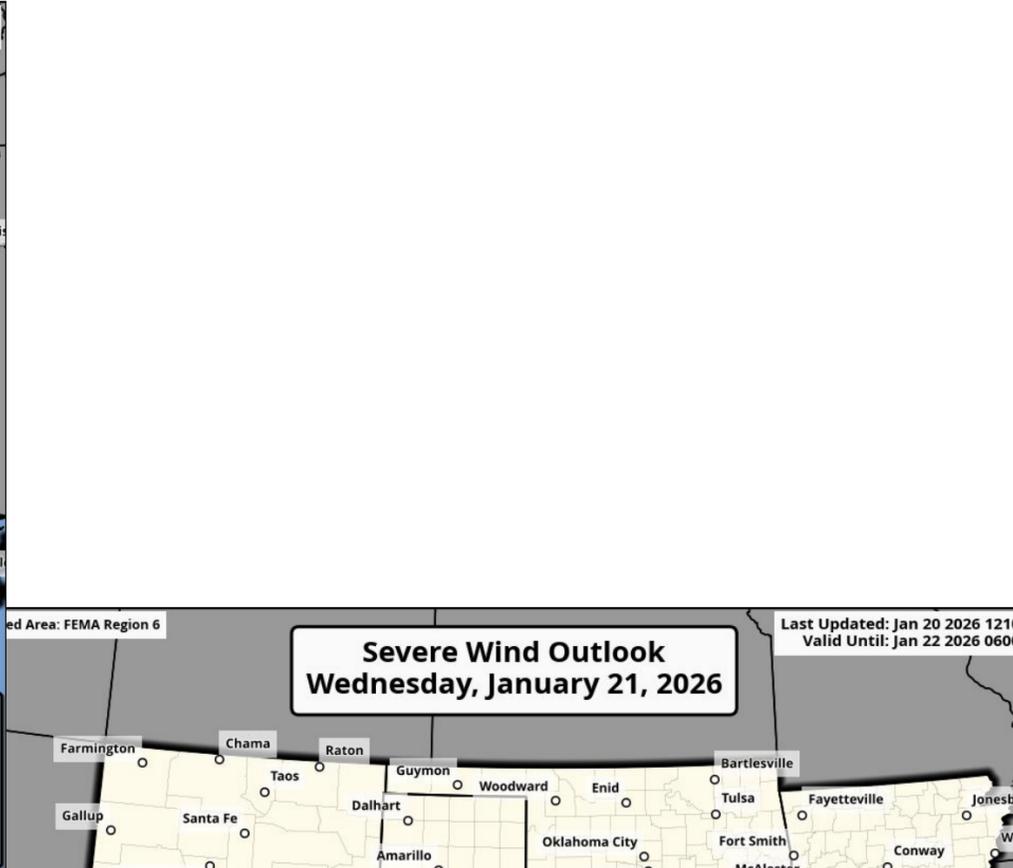
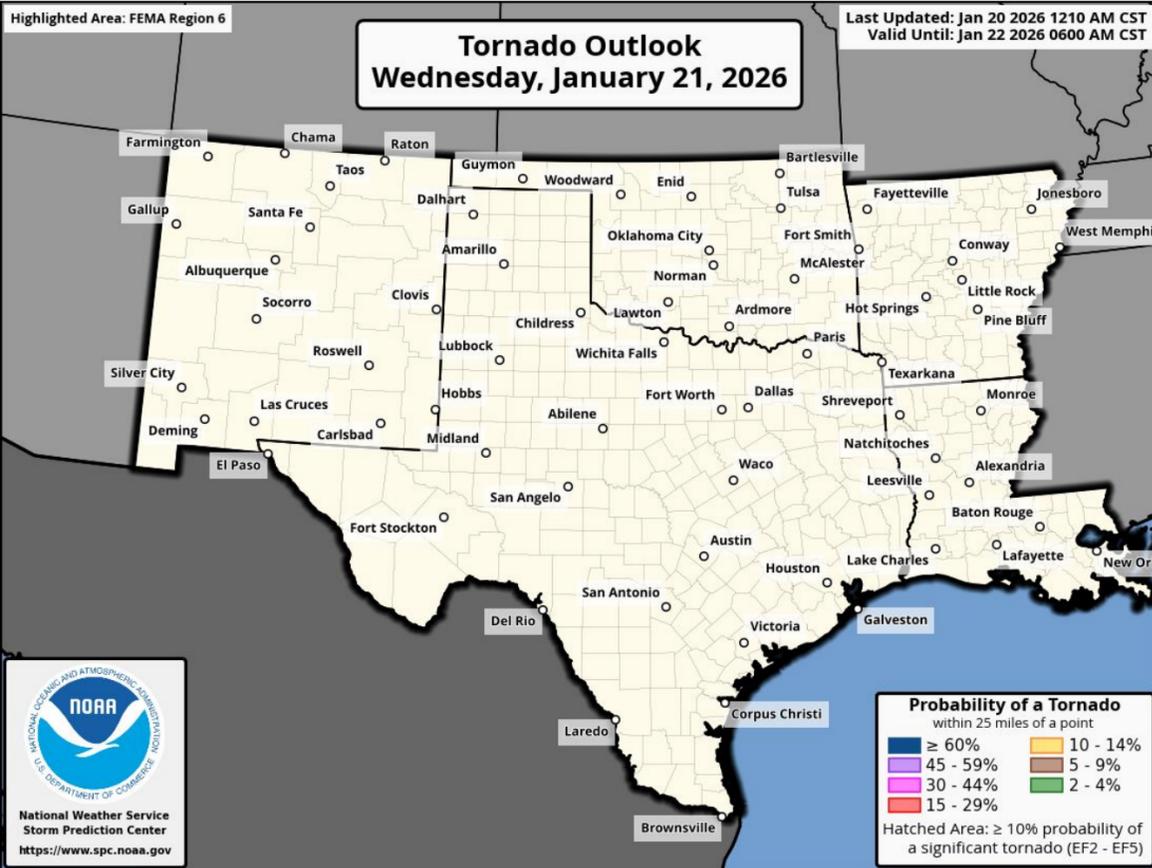


No significant weather expected.





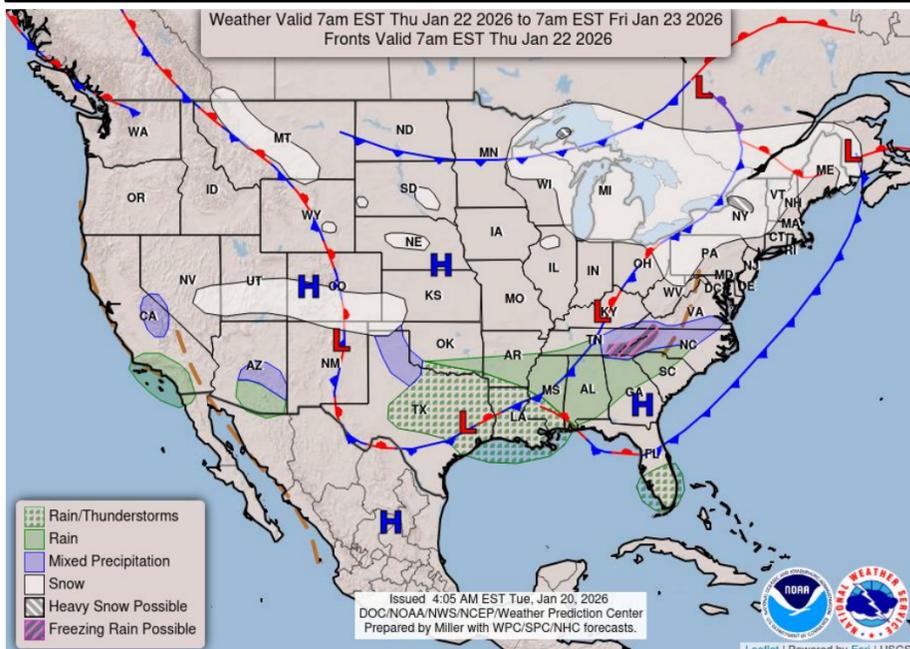
Tomorrow's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities



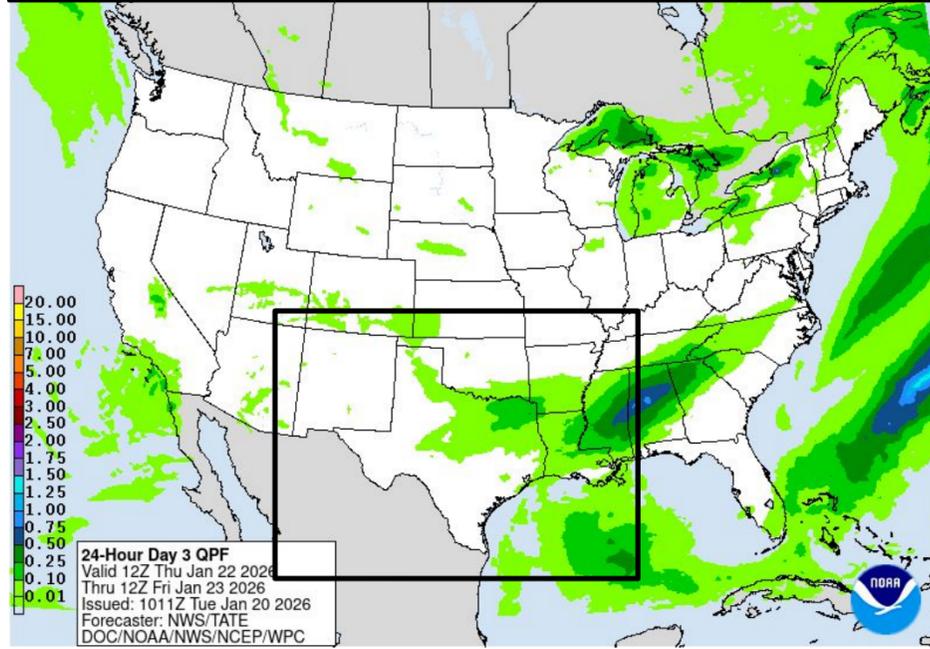


Thursday's Weather

Forecast Chart

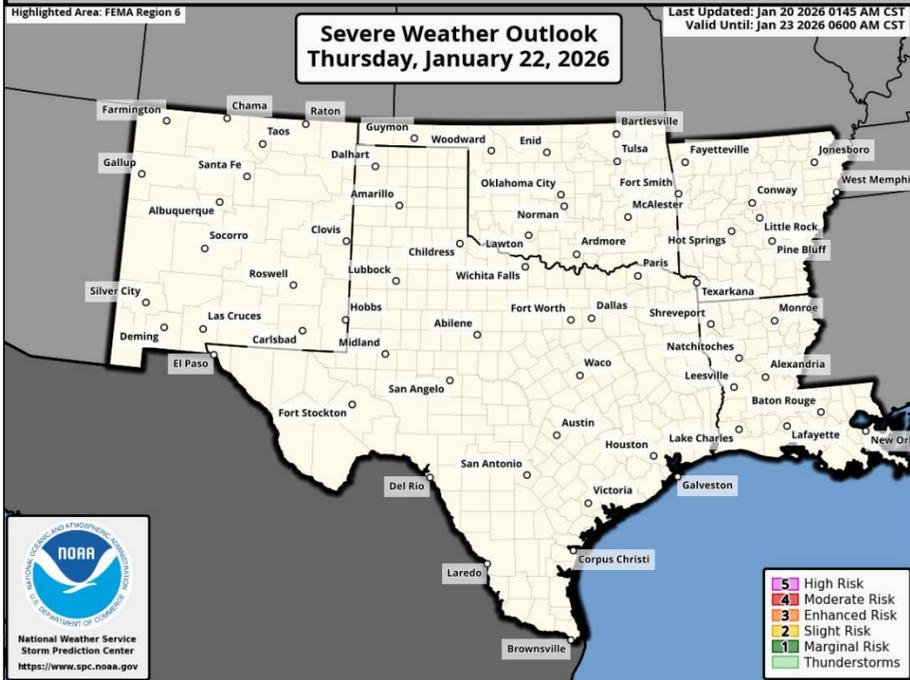


Forecast Rainfall

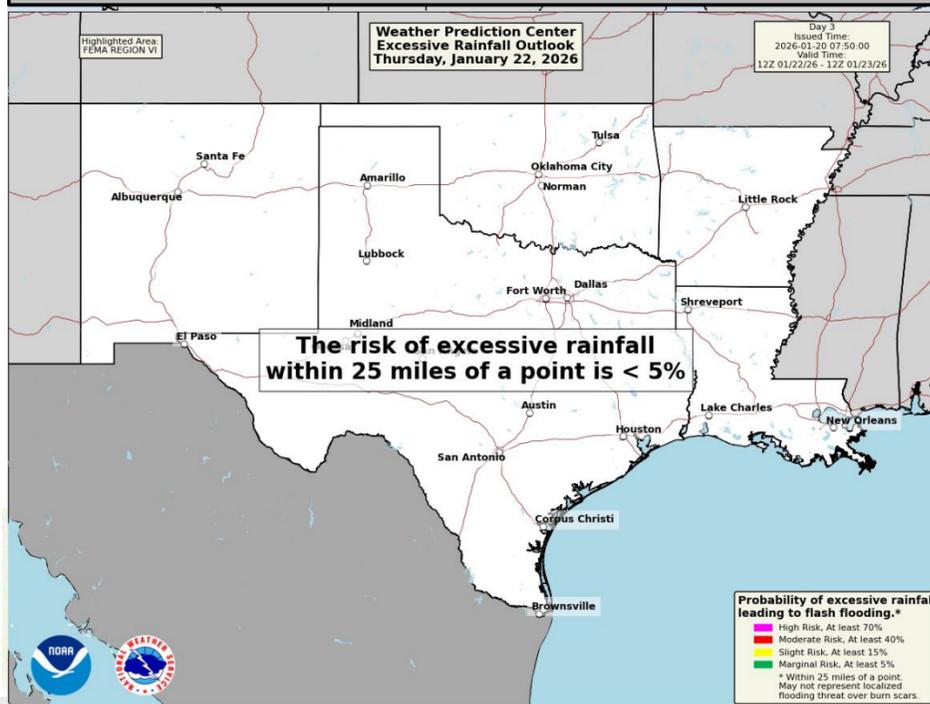


No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook



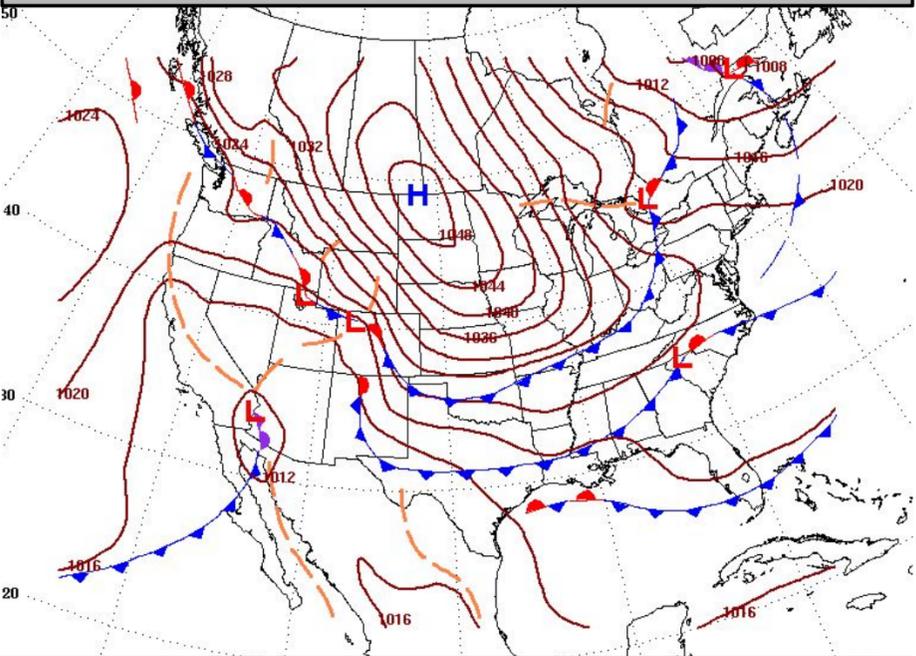
Excessive Rainfall Outlook



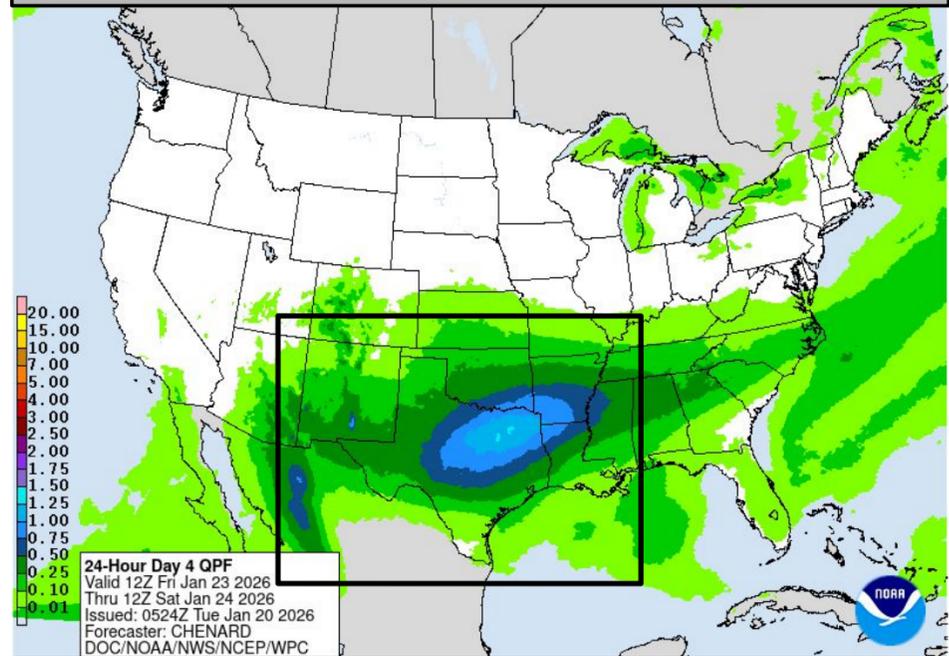


Friday's Weather

Forecast Chart

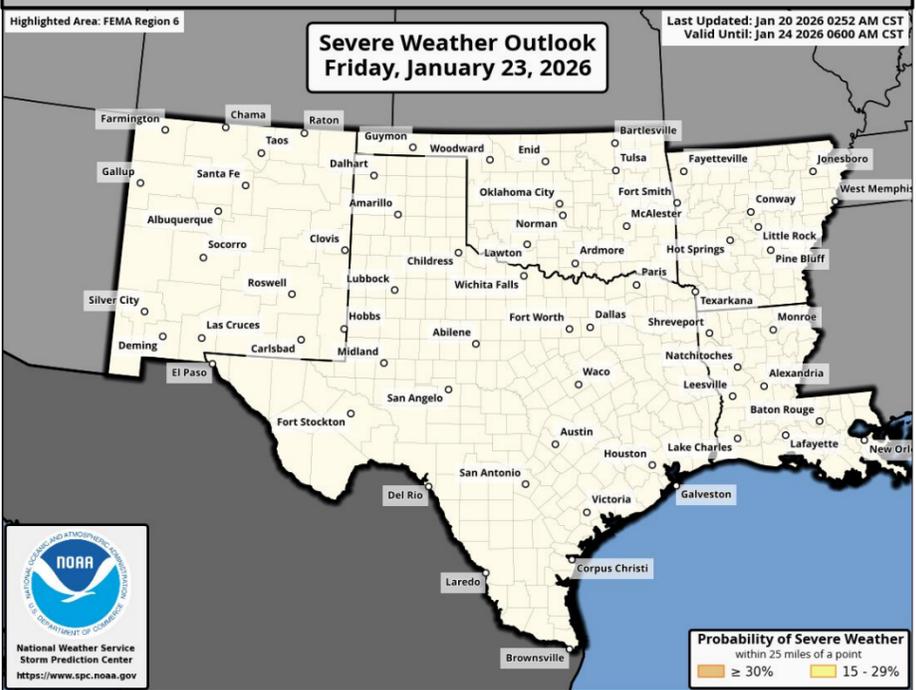


Forecast Rainfall

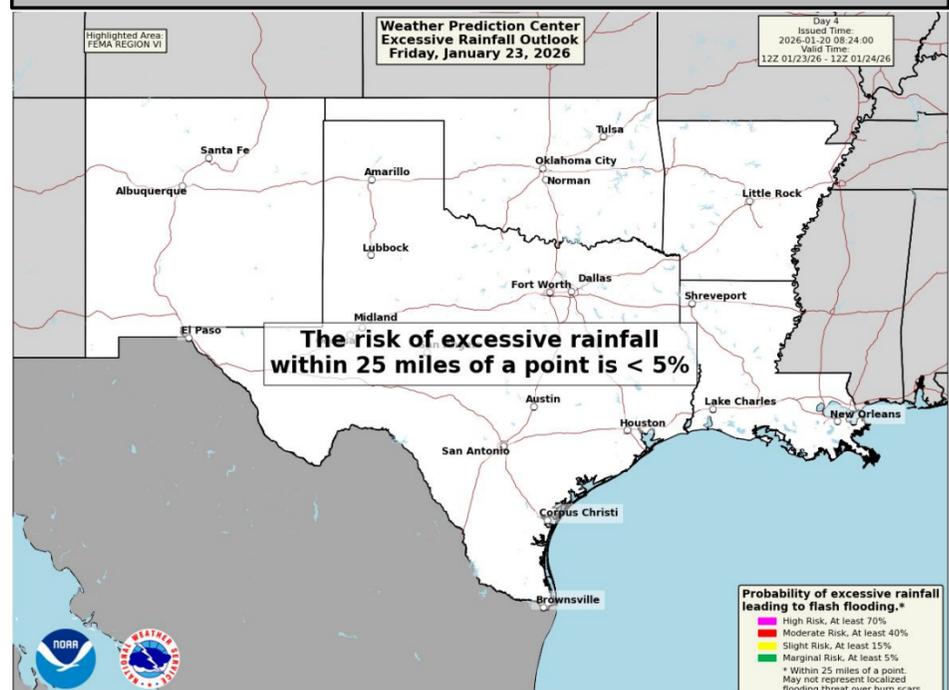


Monitoring NM, OK, AR, TX, and LA for minor (level 2 of 5) winter impacts. Exact precip type, amounts, and exactly where it falls is still uncertain.

Severe Weather Outlook



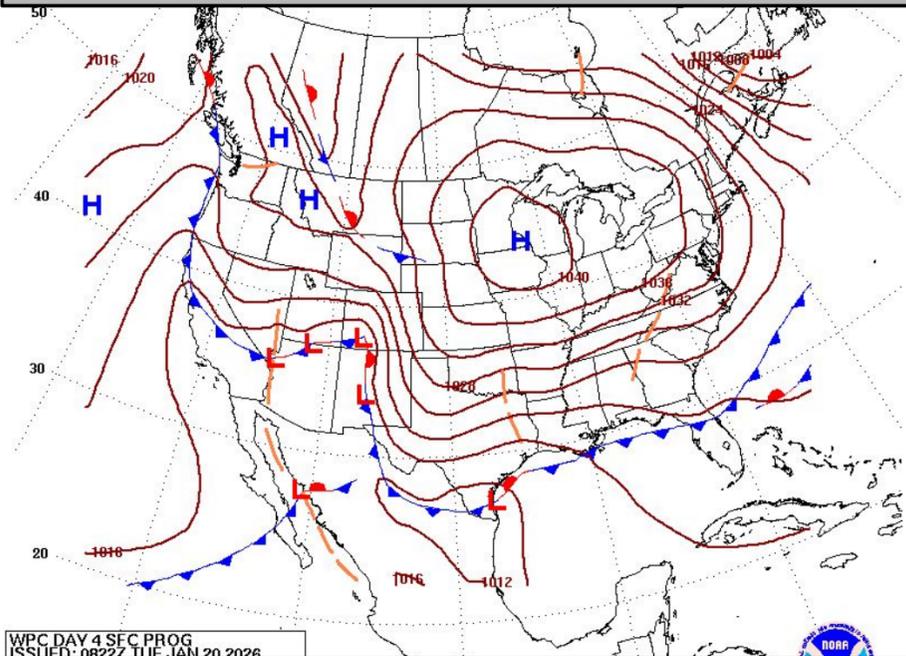
Excessive Rainfall Outlook





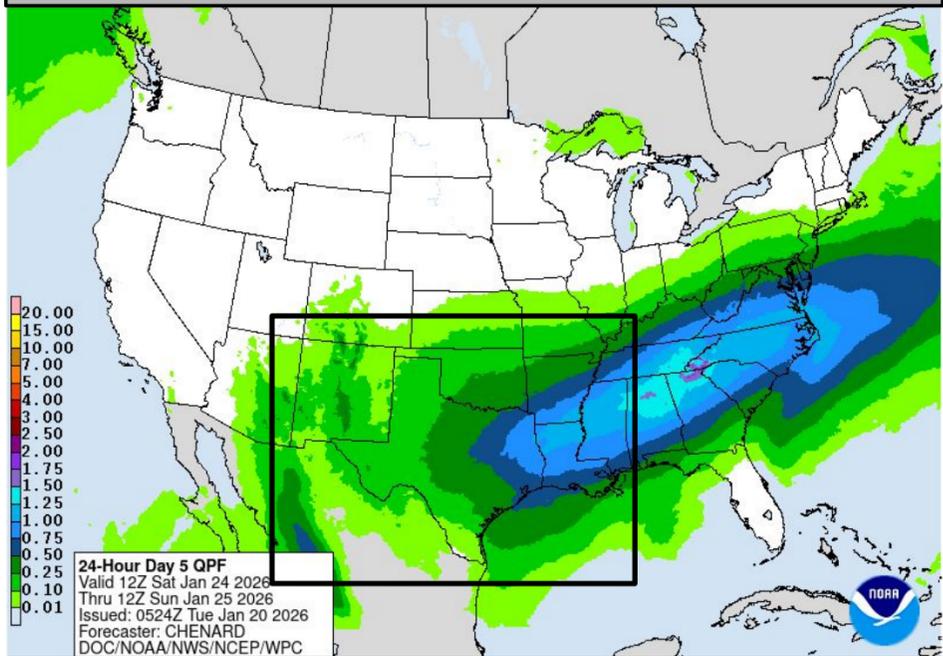
Saturday's Weather

Forecast Chart



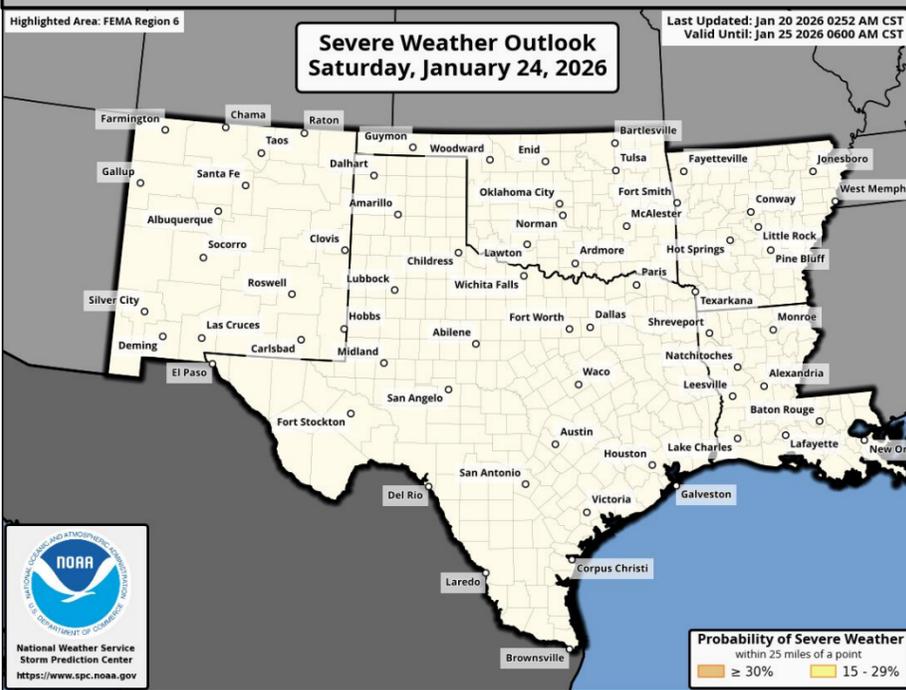
WPC DAY 4 SFC PROG
ISSUED: 0622Z TUE JAN 20 2026

Forecast Rainfall



24-Hour Day 5 QPF
Valid 12Z Sat Jan 24 2026
Thru 12Z Sun Jan 25 2026
Issued: 0524Z Tue Jan 20 2026
Forecaster: CHENARD
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Severe Weather Outlook

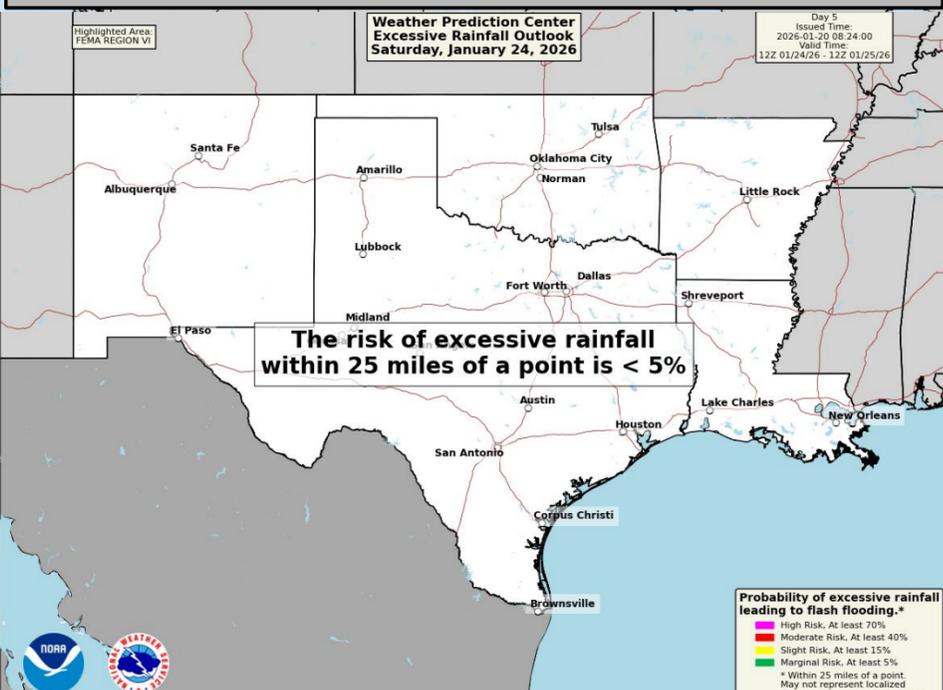


Severe Weather Outlook
Saturday, January 24, 2026

Last Updated: Jan 20 2026 0252 AM CST
Valid Until: Jan 25 2026 0600 AM CST

Probability of Severe Weather
within 25 miles of a point
≥ 30% 15 - 29%

Excessive Rainfall Outlook



Weather Prediction Center
Excessive Rainfall Outlook
Saturday, January 24, 2026

The risk of excessive rainfall
within 25 miles of a point is < 5%

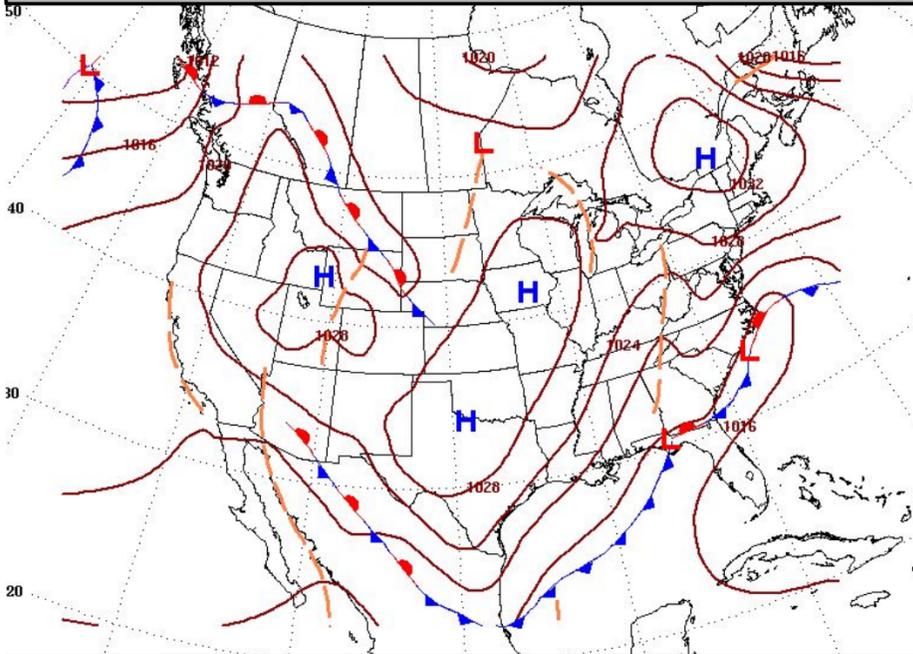
Probability of excessive rainfall
leading to flash flooding.*
High Risk, At least 70%
Moderate Risk, At least 40%
Slight Risk, At least 15%
Marginal Risk, At least 5%
* Within 25 miles of a point.
May not represent localized
flooding threat over burn scars.

Moderate (level 3 of 5) winter weather impacts in NM, OK, AR, TX, and LA. Exact precip type, amounts, and exactly where it falls is still uncertain.

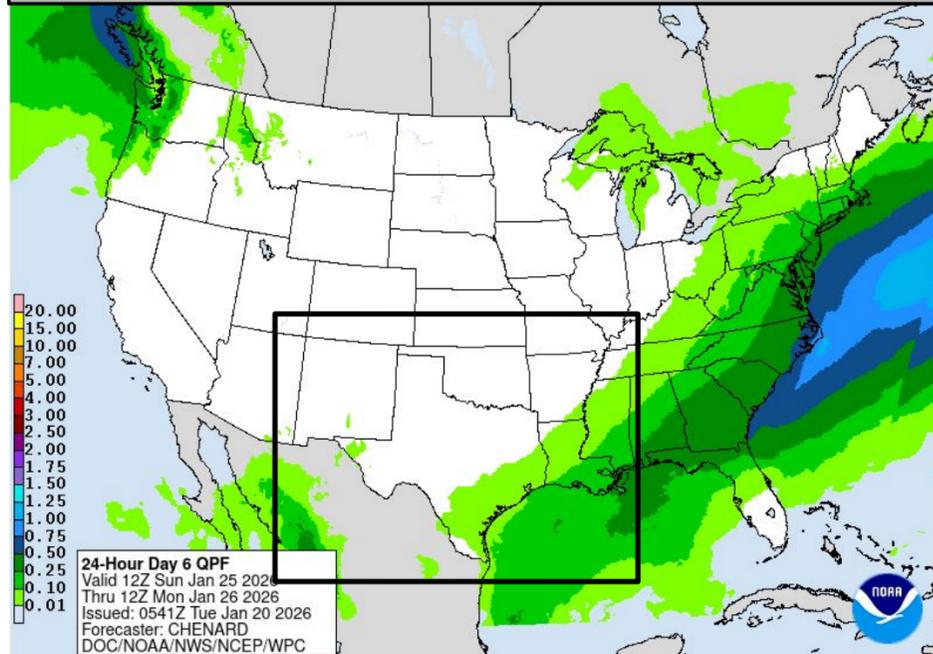


Sunday's Weather

Forecast Chart



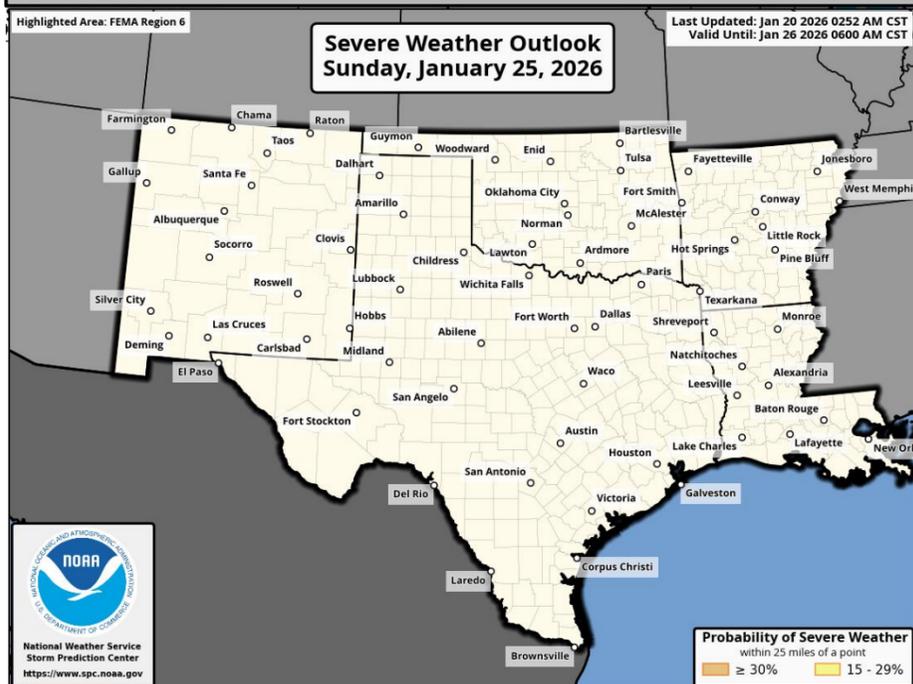
Forecast Rainfall



Moderate (level 3 of 5) travel impacts due to winter weather continue in AR, TX, and LA. Exact precip type, amounts, and exactly where it falls is still uncertain.

Minor (level 2 of 5) travel impacts due to winter weather continue for NM and OK.

Severe Weather Outlook

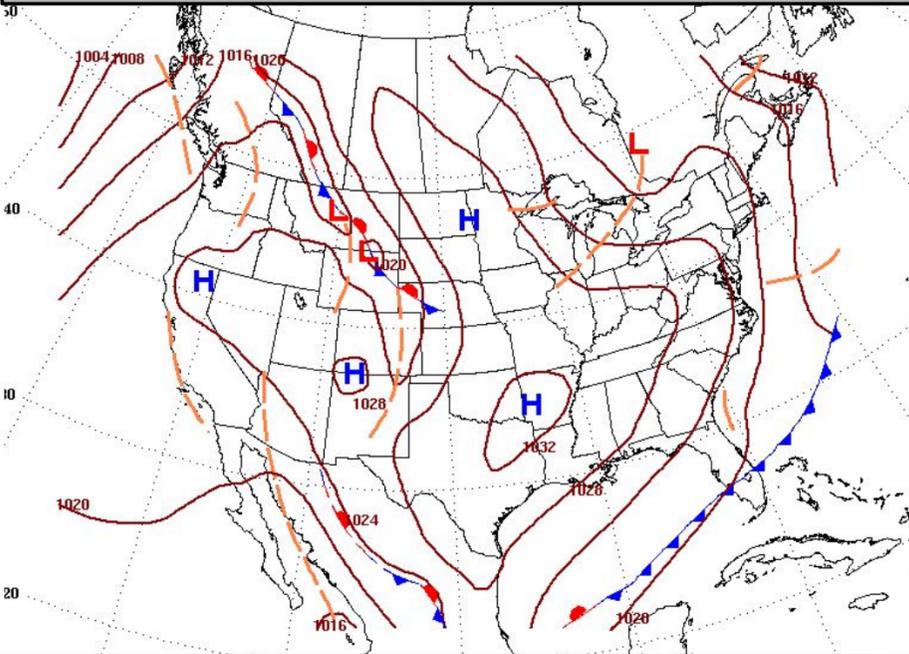


Excessive Rainfall Outlooks not available beyond Day 5

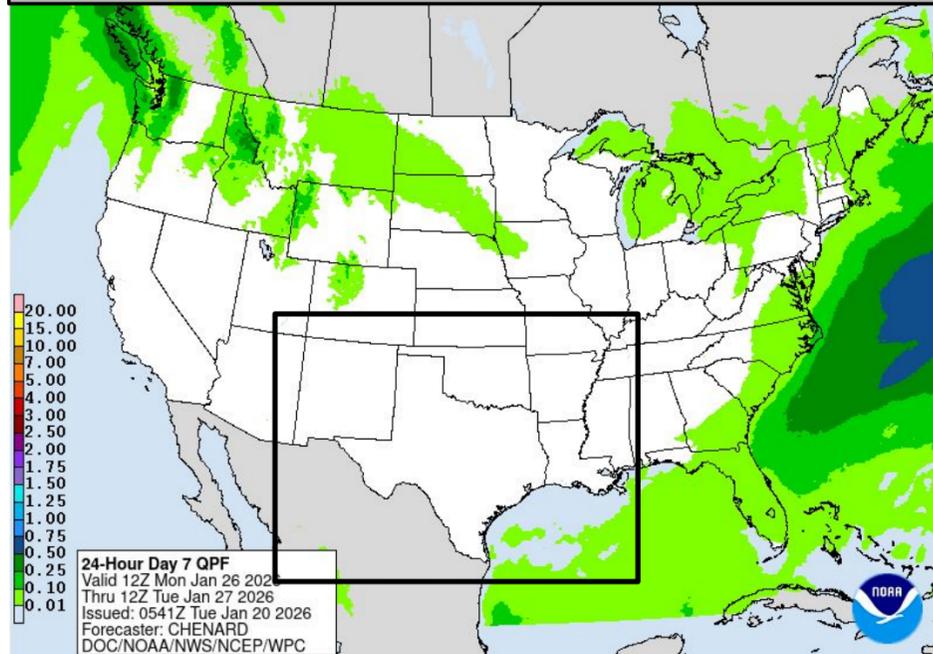


Monday's Weather

Forecast Chart

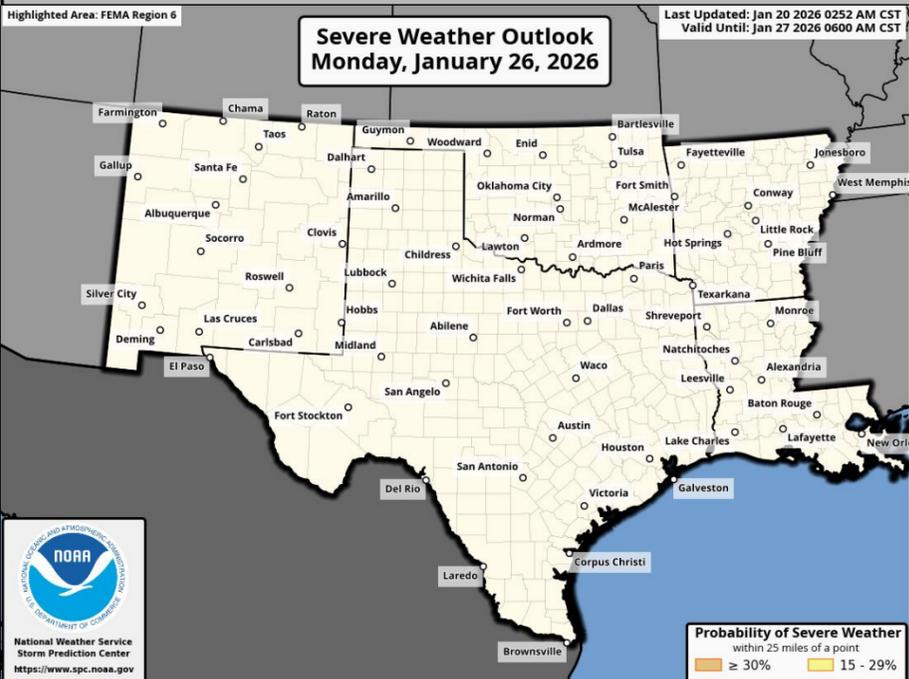


Forecast Rainfall



Minor (level 2 of 5) travel impacts may linger into Monday due to weekend snow, sleet and/or ice in AR, TX, and LA.

Severe Weather Outlook

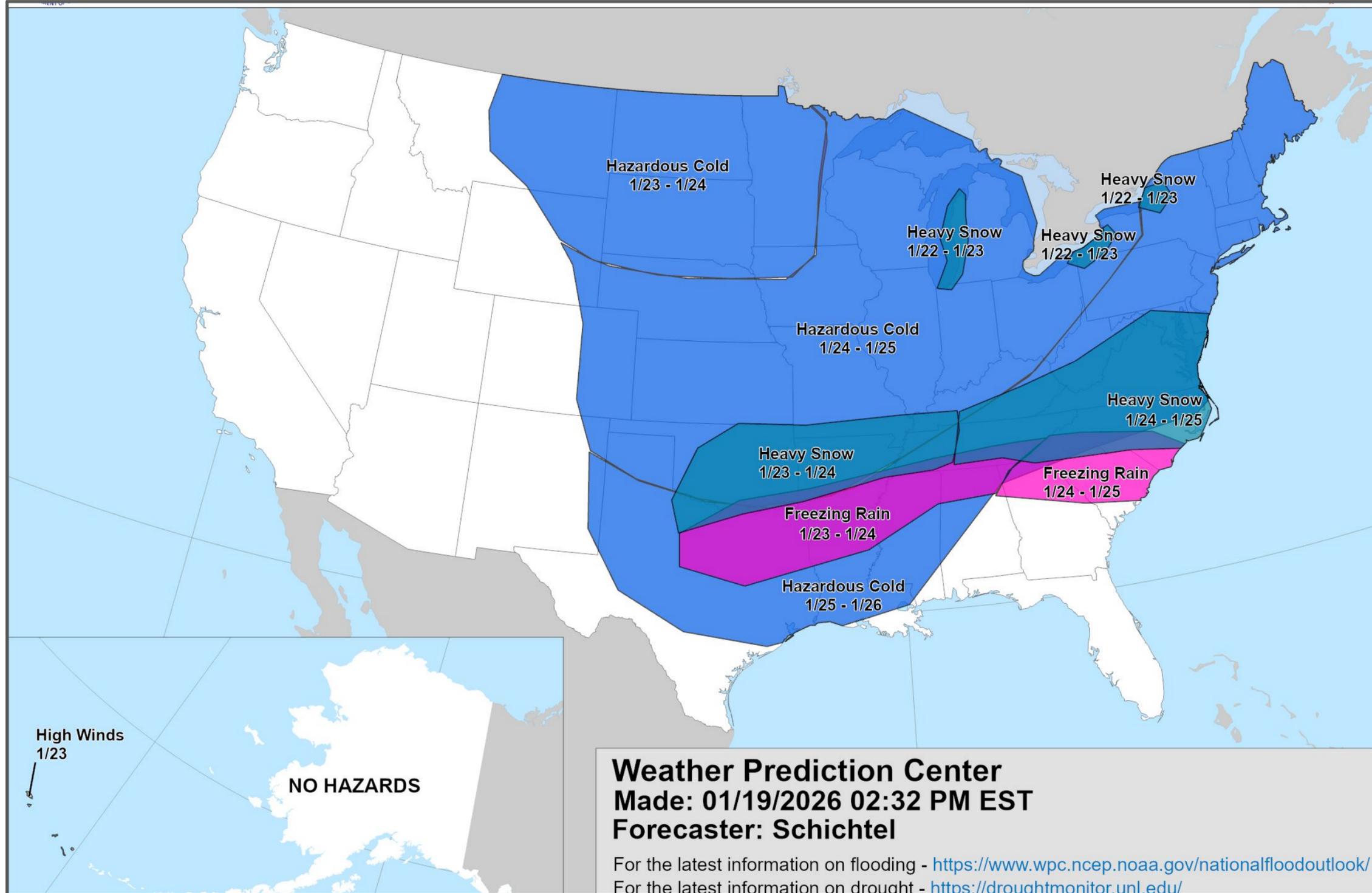


Excessive Rainfall Outlooks not available beyond Day 5



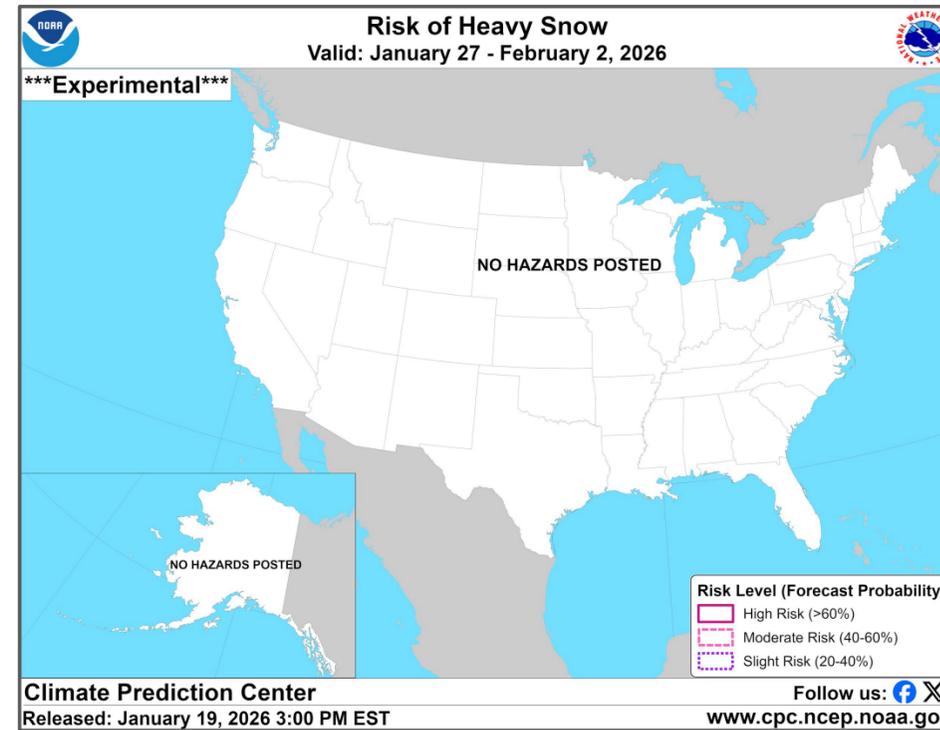
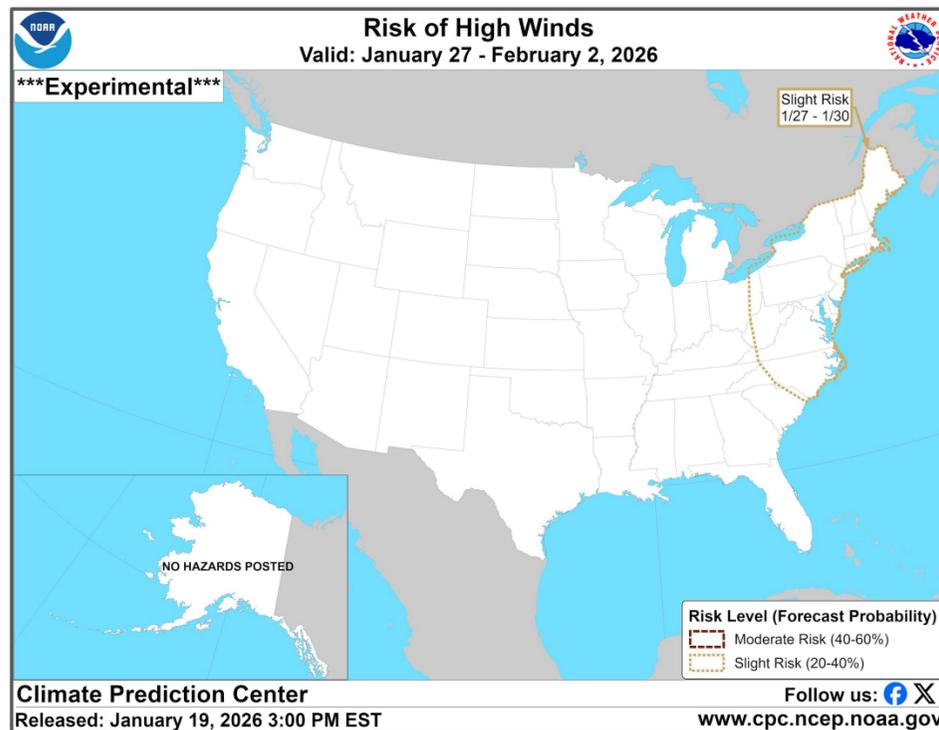
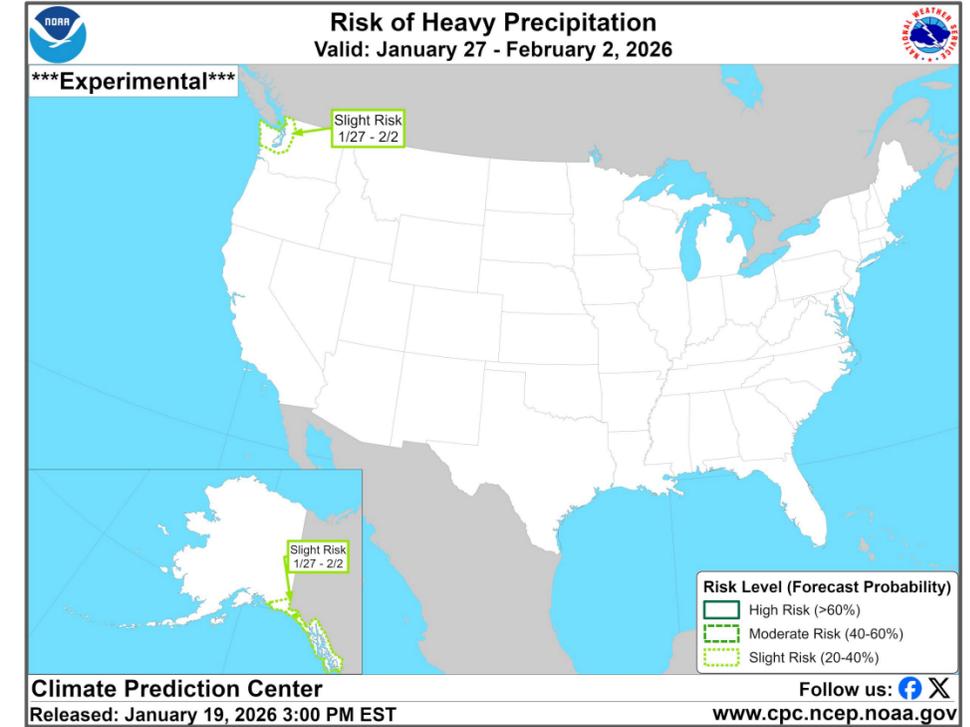
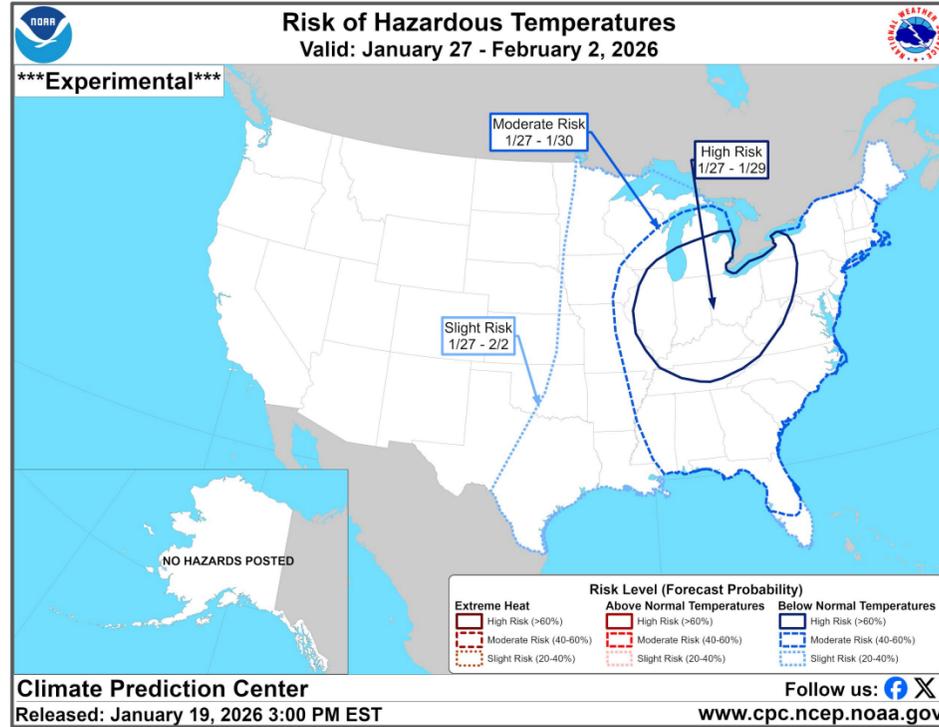
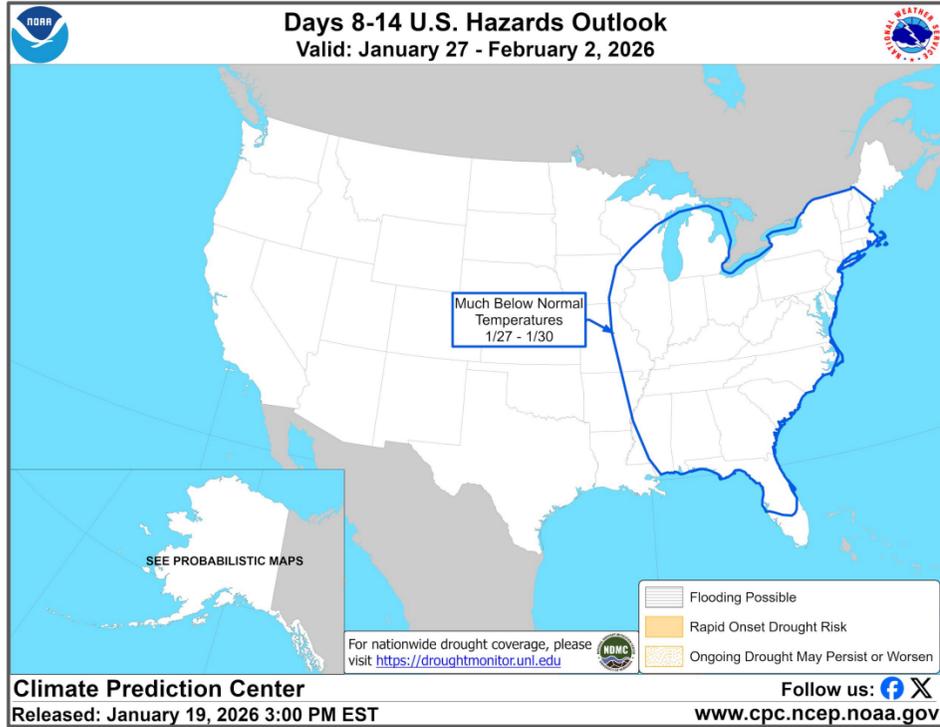


“Day 3-7” Hazards Outlook





“Day 8-14” Hazards Outlook

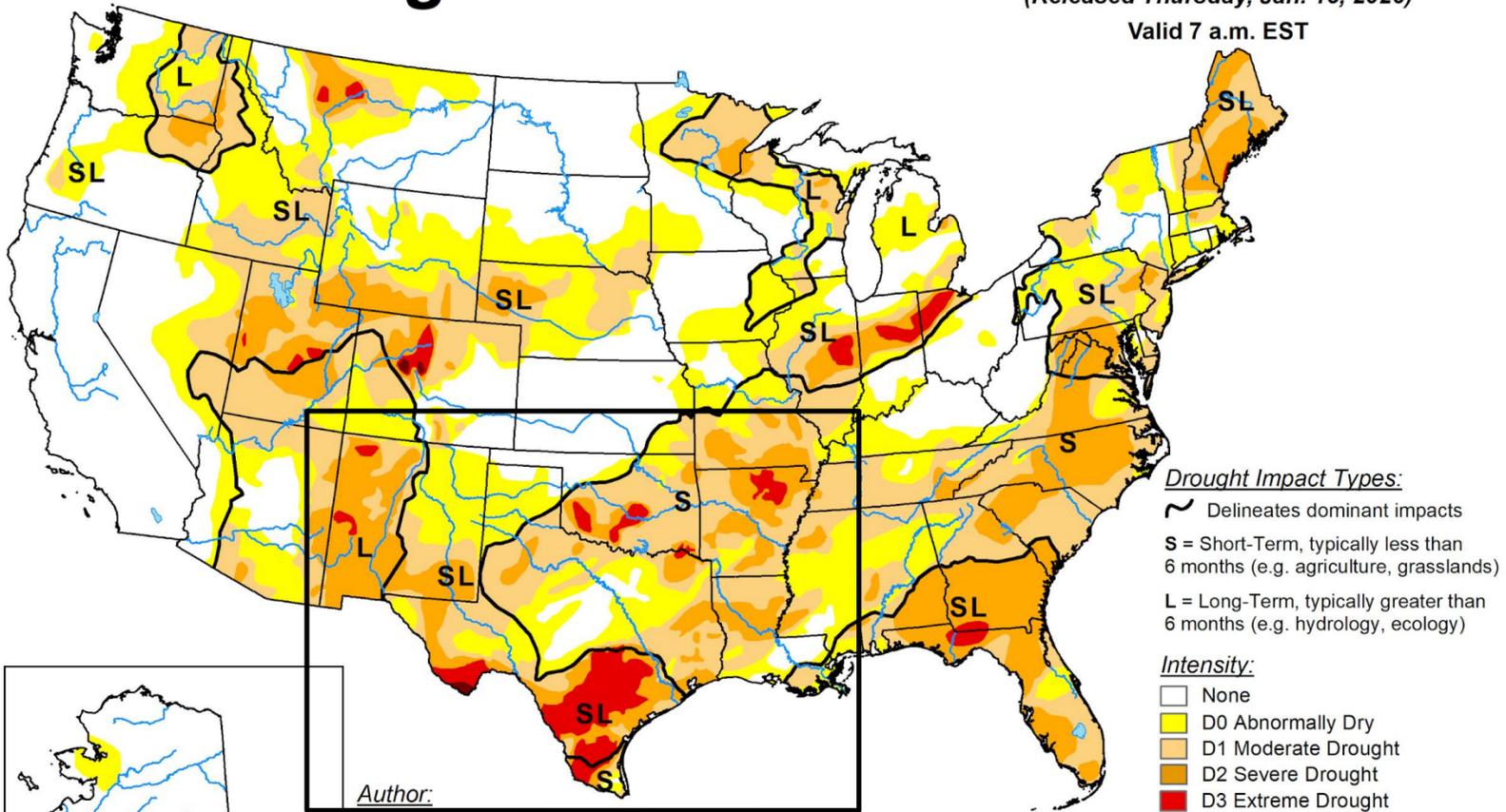




Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 13, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

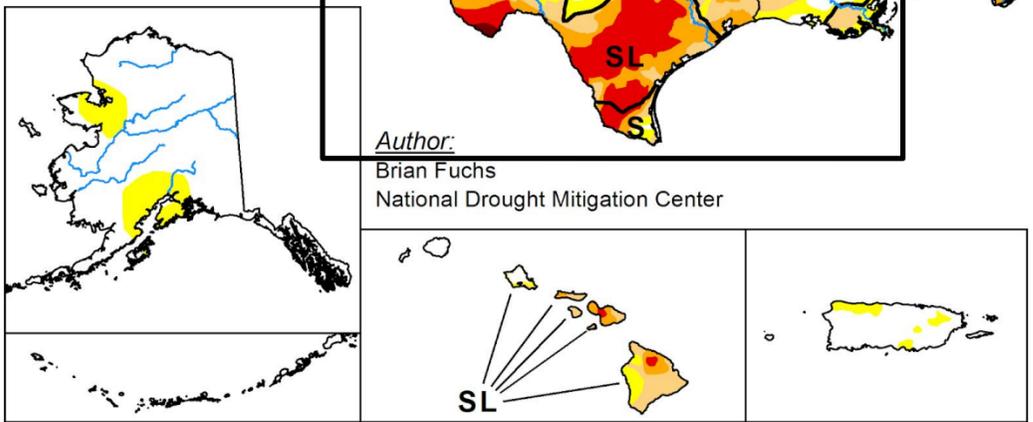


Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center

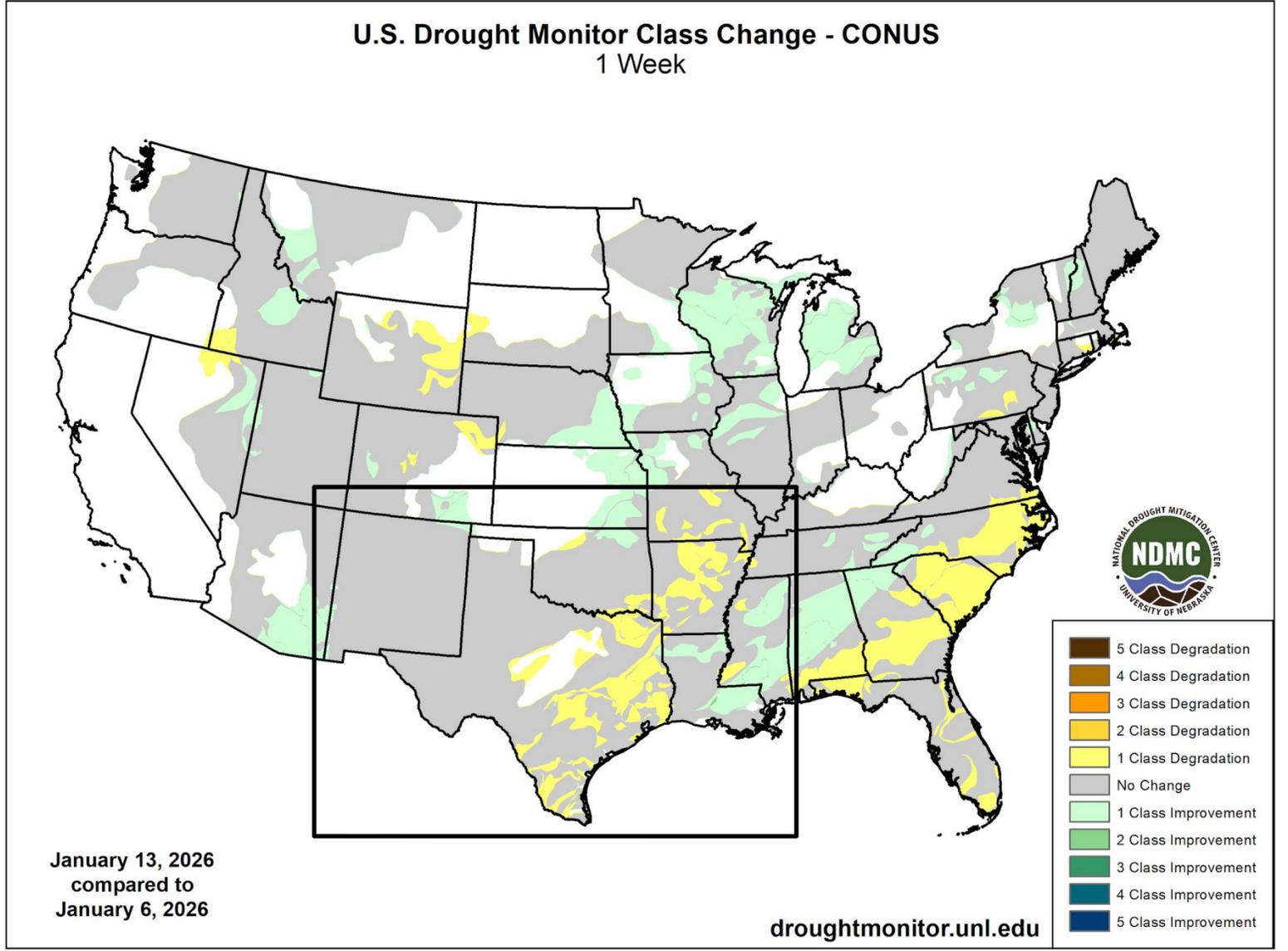
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - CONUS 1 Week



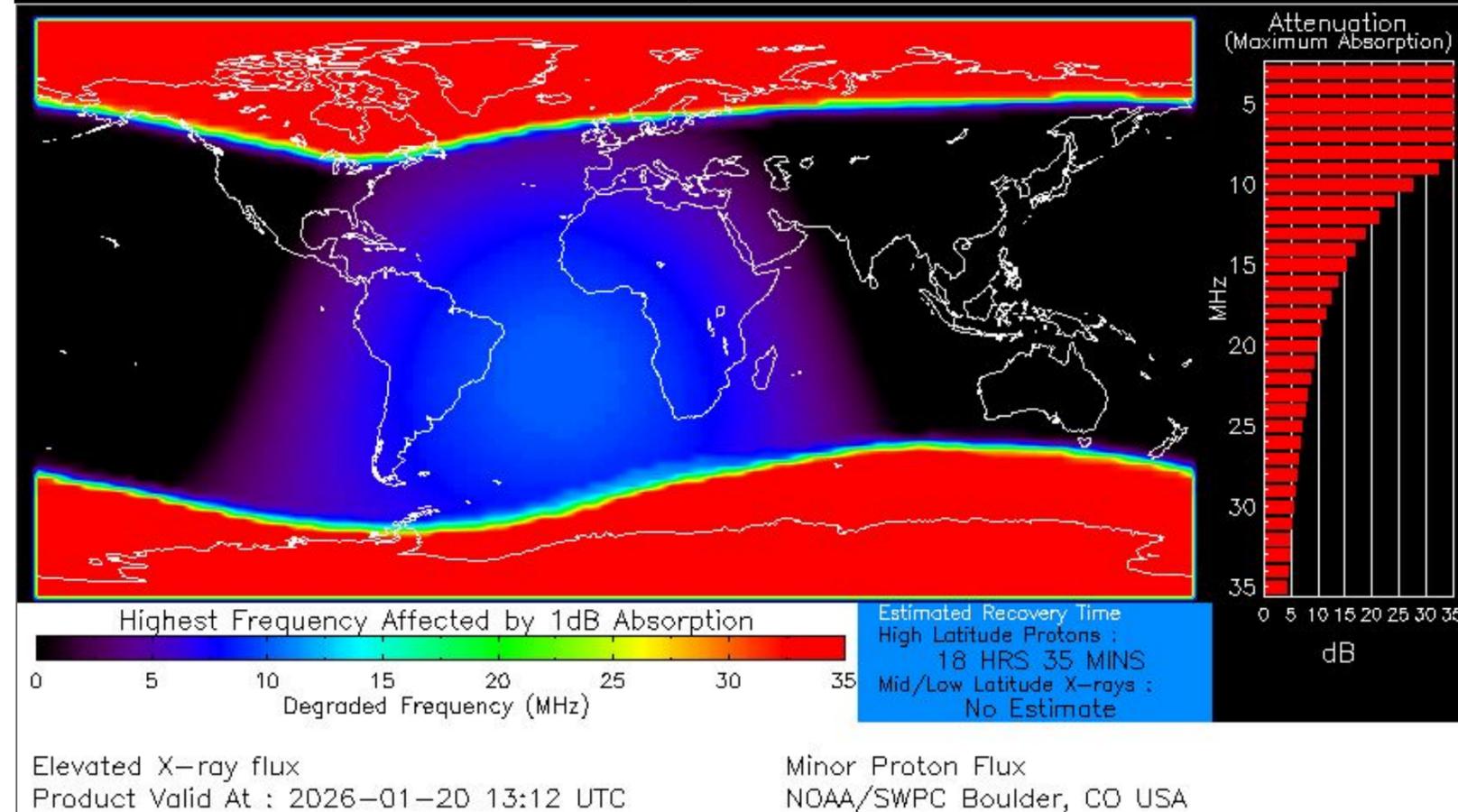
January 13, 2026
compared to
January 6, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



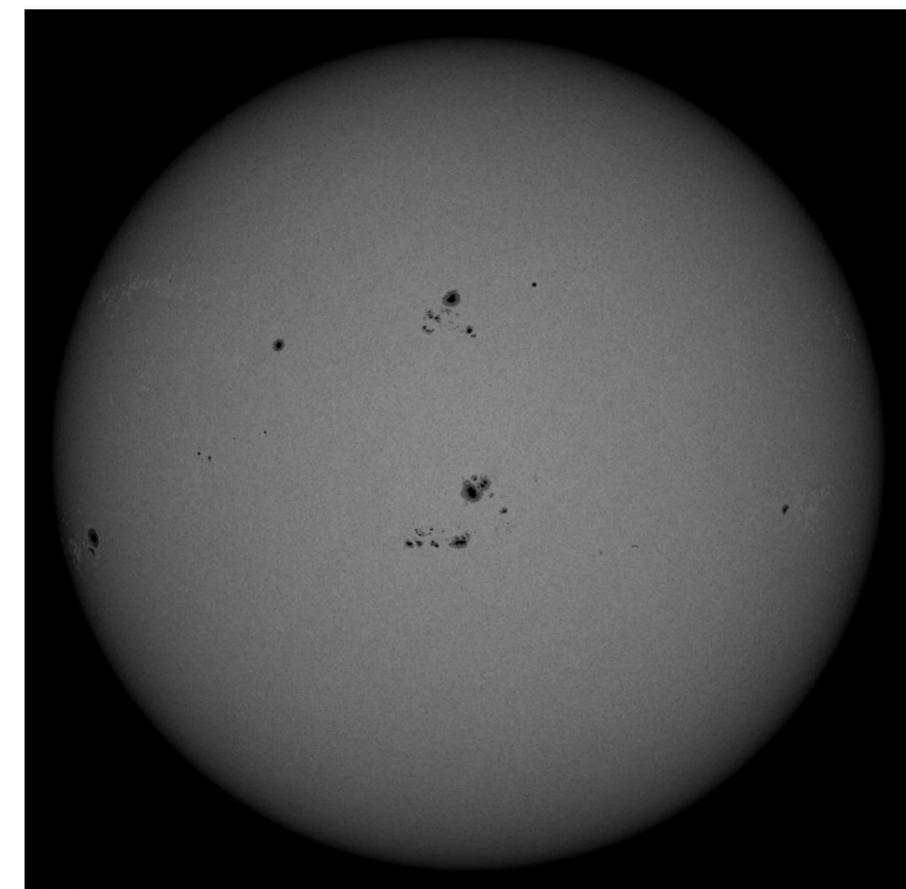
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast

	Tuesday, Jan 20	Wednesday, Jan 21	Thursday, Jan 22
Geomagnetic Storms	Strong Storm (G3) (Max Kp=3)	Unsettled (Max Kp=3)	Unsettled (Max Kp=3)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	99%	75%	45%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	60%	60%	60%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	10%	10%	10%



[Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast](#)



Weather "Threat" Matrix for FEMA Region VI

Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	<p style="text-align: center;">Little to None</p> <p>Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines</p>	<p>Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as seabreeze storms in coastal TX
Yellow	<p style="text-align: center;">Minor</p> <p>Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life</p>	<p>Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	<p style="text-align: center;">Moderate</p> <p>Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life</p>	<p>Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	<p style="text-align: center;">Major</p> <p>Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life</p>	<p>Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	<p style="text-align: center;">Extreme</p> <p>Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life</p>	<p>Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms

Criteria for the color codes in this briefing is to the left, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov



National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters

Regional Operations Center

Fort Worth, TX



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X: NWSSouthern



Web: www.weather.gov/srh