



FEMA



Prepared by
Andy Bollenbacher

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Tuesday, February 17, 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

- **Fire Weather:**

- **Elevated to Critical (levels 1-2 of 3) conditions through Thursday for E NM, W TX, TX/OK Panhandles, W OK due to persistent gusty southwest/west winds and low relative humidity.**
 - **Today and Wednesday are the highest risk days with the main threat areas over the TX/OK Panhandles and W OK.**
 - **Wind gusts of up to 65-70 mph over E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, W OK may result in blowing dust causing reduced visibility as well as potential for power outages.**
 - **SE NM, W TX, TX/OK Panhandles will see elevated fire concerns Friday; and monitoring C/STX for Saturday.**

- **Winter Weather:**

- **Winter Storm Warning for the Sangre de Cristo and Tusas Mountains in N NM through Tuesday evening for snowfall of up to 4” below 8000 feet and 4-8” above 8000 feet. Wind gusts of 70 mph will cause whiteout conditions.**

- **River Flooding:**

- **Cache River at Patterson is expected remain above minor flood stage through at least this Saturday. Secondary roads and pastures flooded.**





FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Next 7 days

	Tuesday, Feb 17	Wednesday, Feb 18	Thursday, Feb 19	Friday, Feb 20	Saturday, Feb 21	Sunday, Feb 22	Monday, Feb 23
Severe Storms							
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding							
Winter Weather	N NM						
Fire Weather	TX/OK Panhandles, E NM, WTX, W OK	TX/OK Panhandles, E NM	E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, WTX, W OK	SE NM, WTX, TX/OK Panhandles	C/STX		
		WTX, W OK					
River Flooding	AR	AR	AR	AR	AR		

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

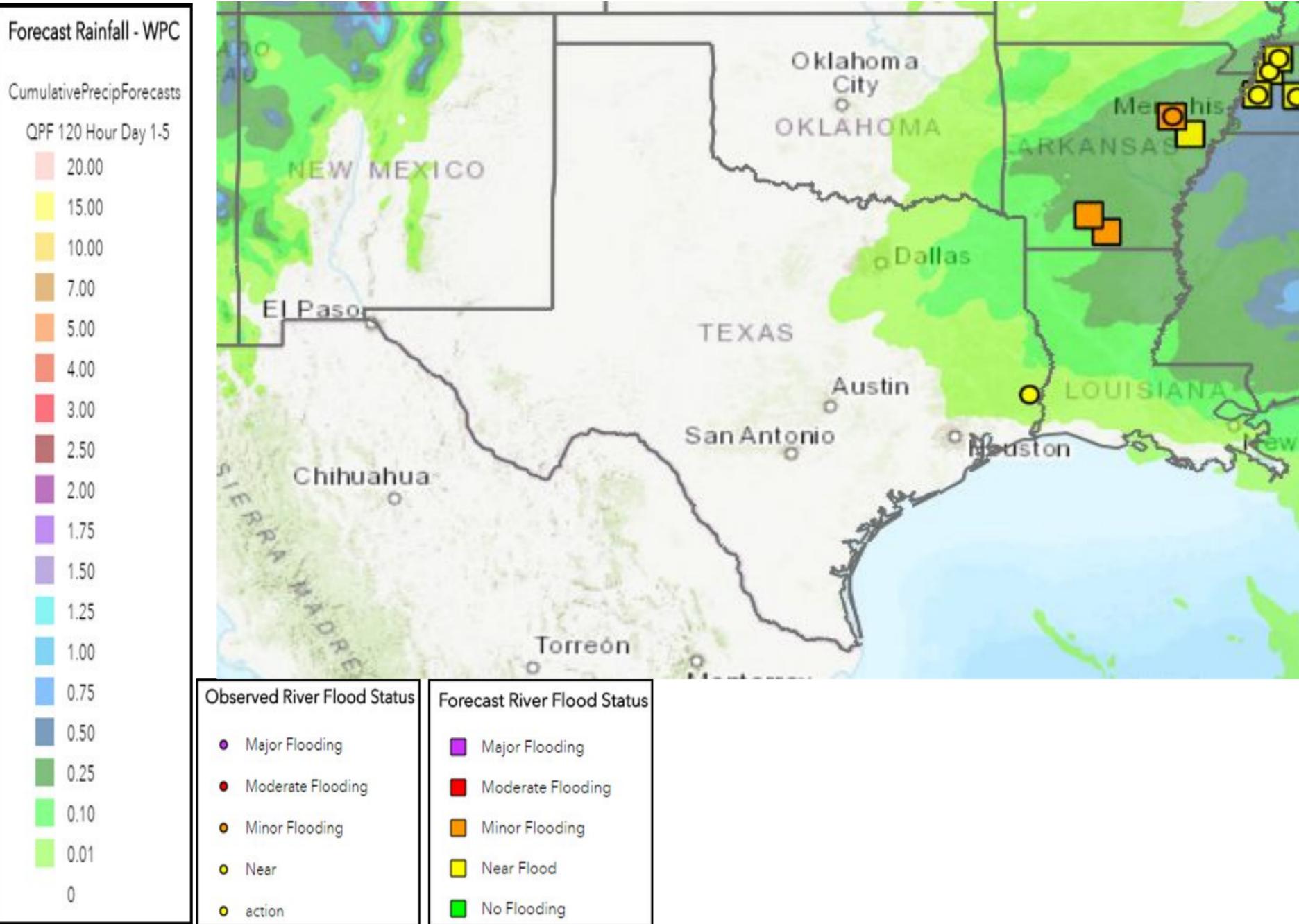
For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.

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



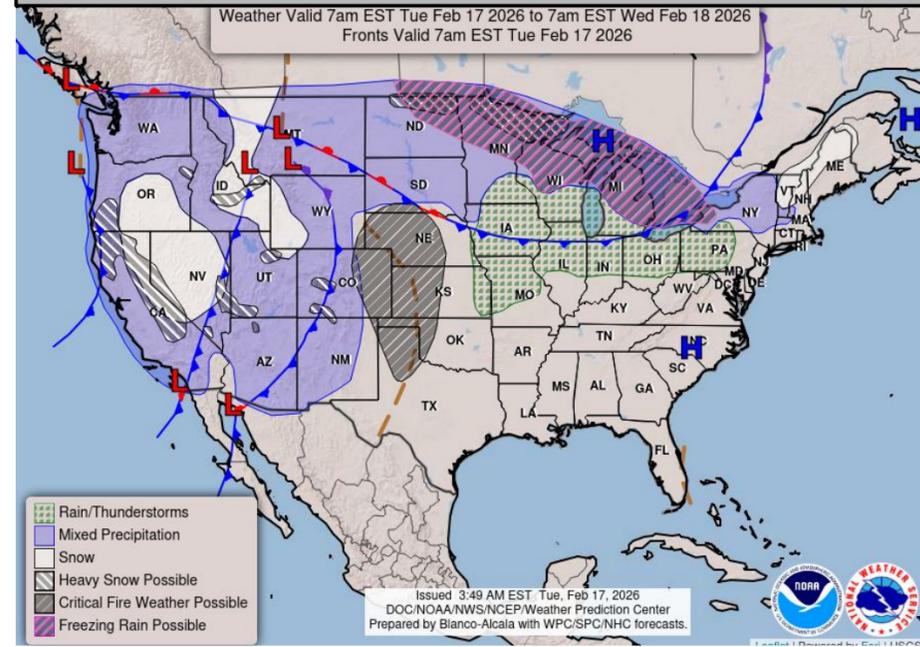
Cache River at Patterson is expected remain above minor flood stage through at least this Saturday. Secondary roads and pastures flooded

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.

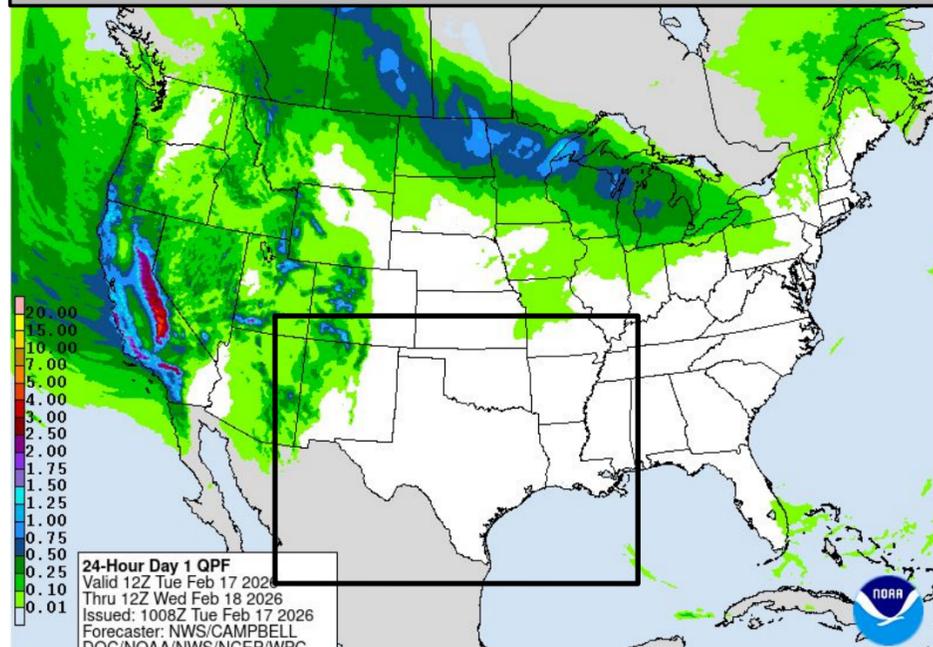


Today's Weather

Forecast Chart



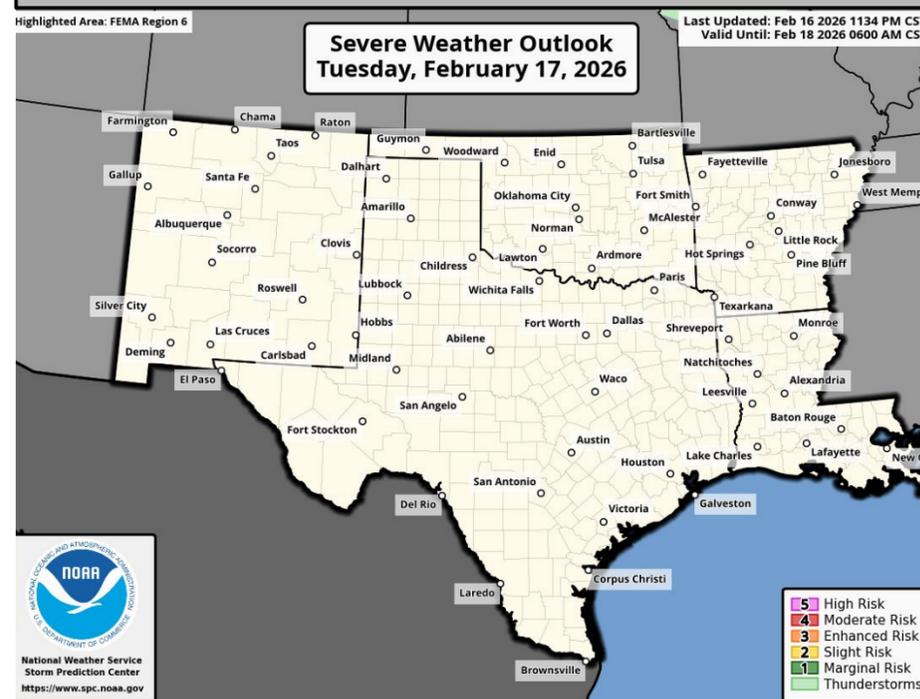
Forecast Rainfall



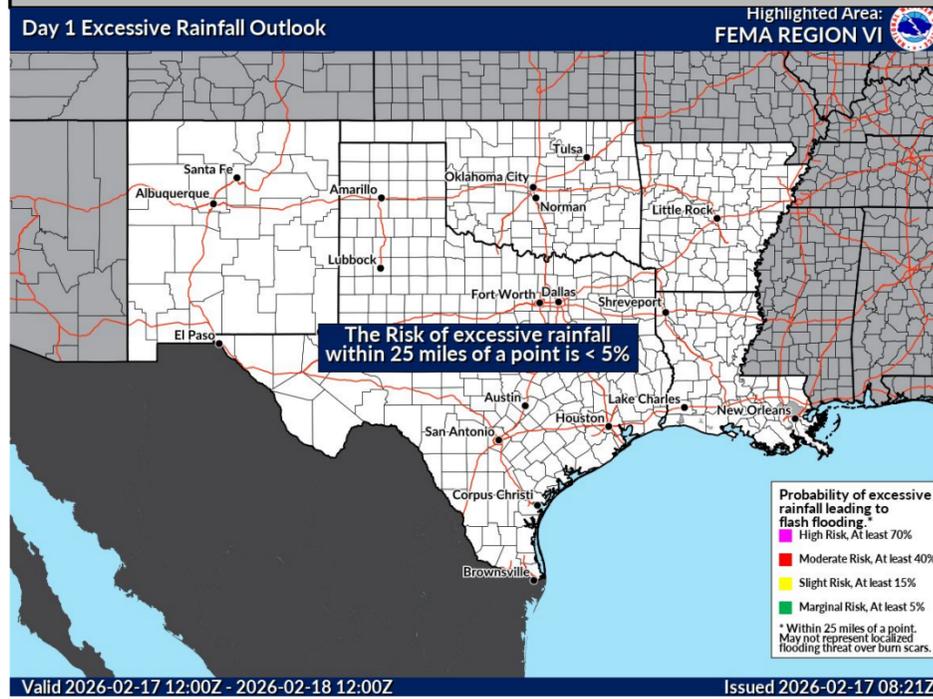
Critical (level 2 of 3) fire weather conditions in the TX/OK Panhandles, W OK, W TX, E NM.

Minor (level 2 of 5) travel impacts due to snow above 8,000 feet in N NM.

Severe Weather Outlook

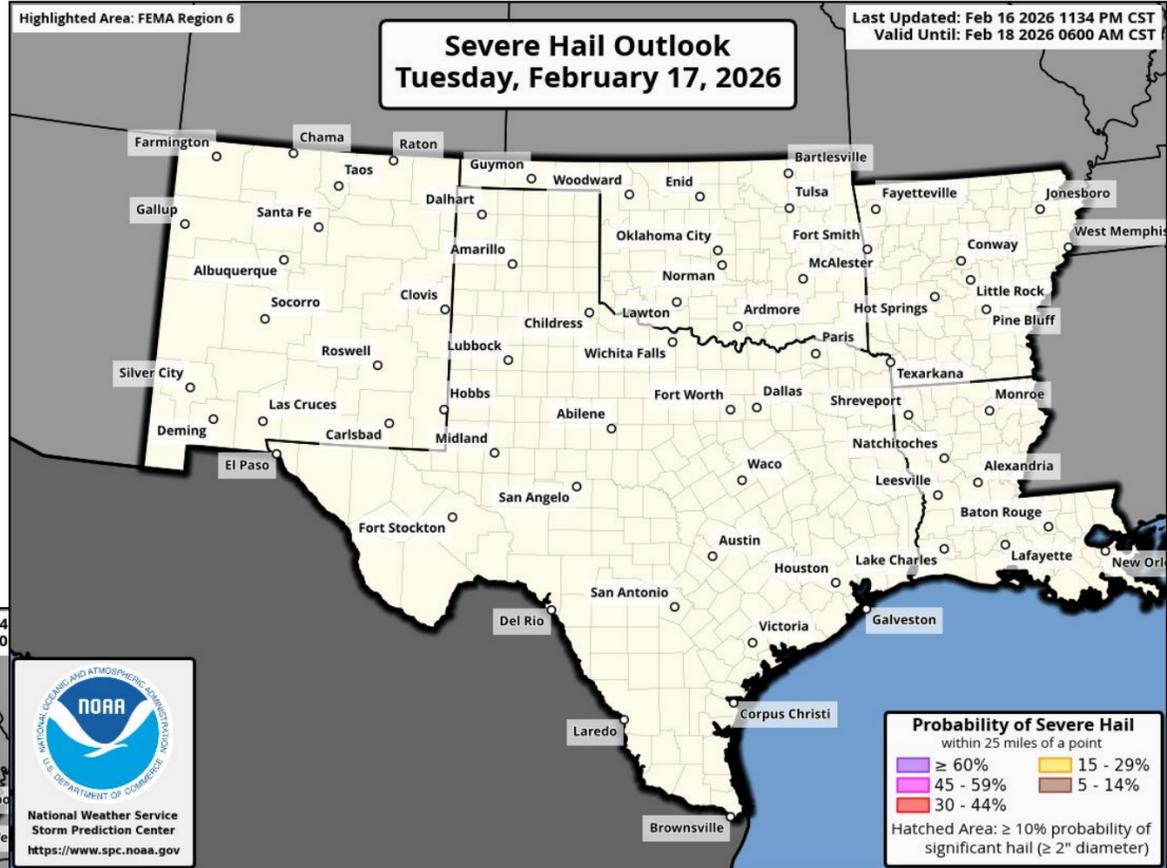
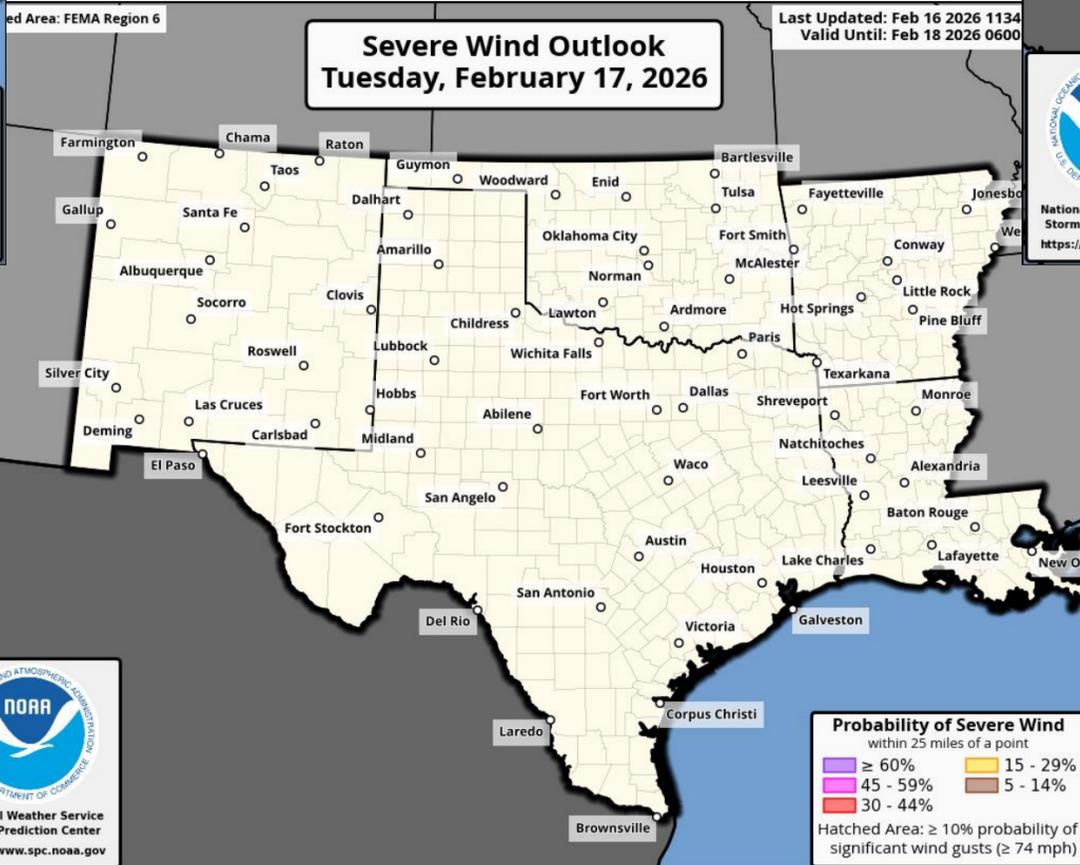
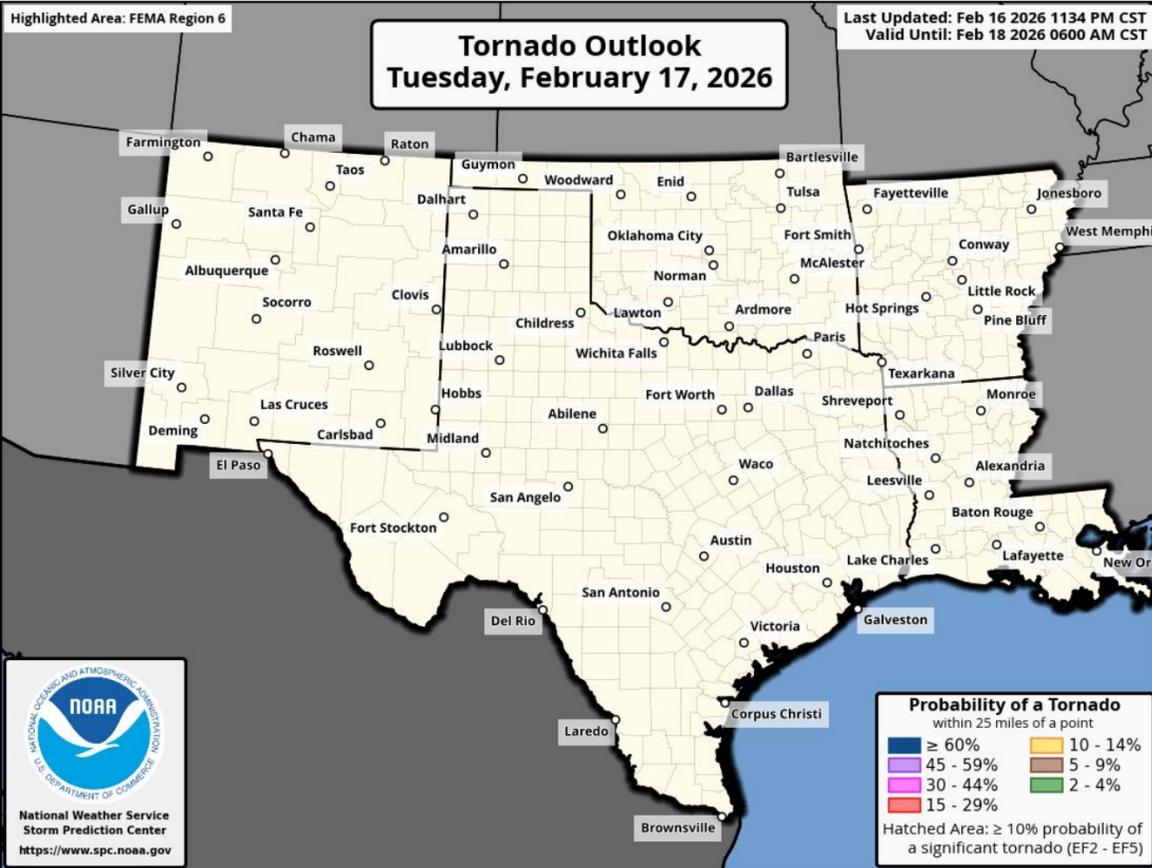


Excessive Rainfall Outlook



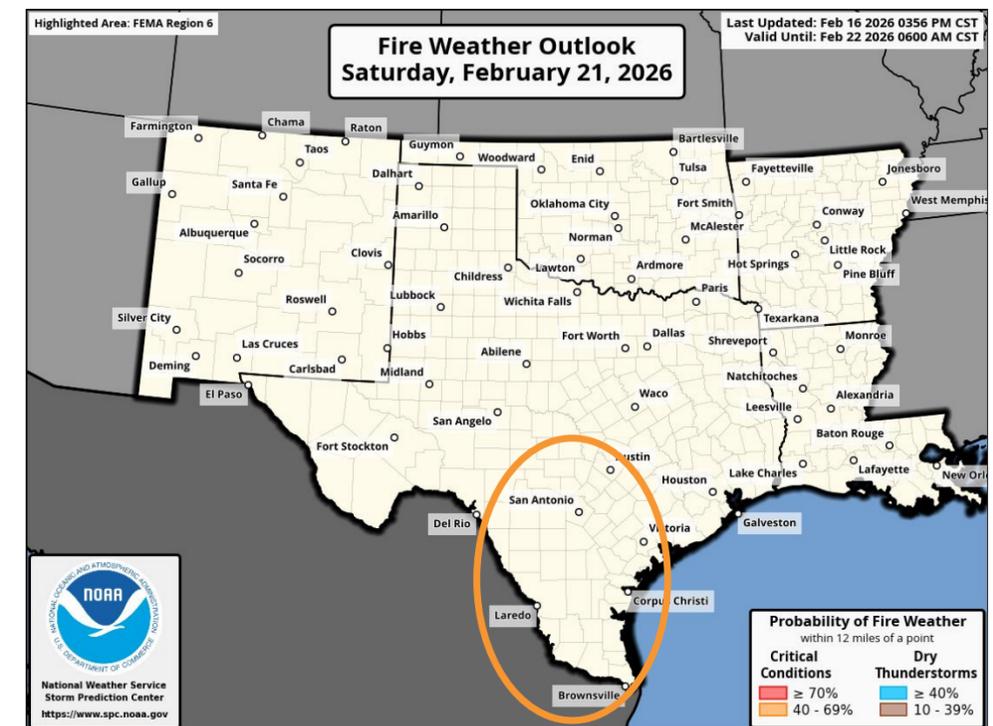
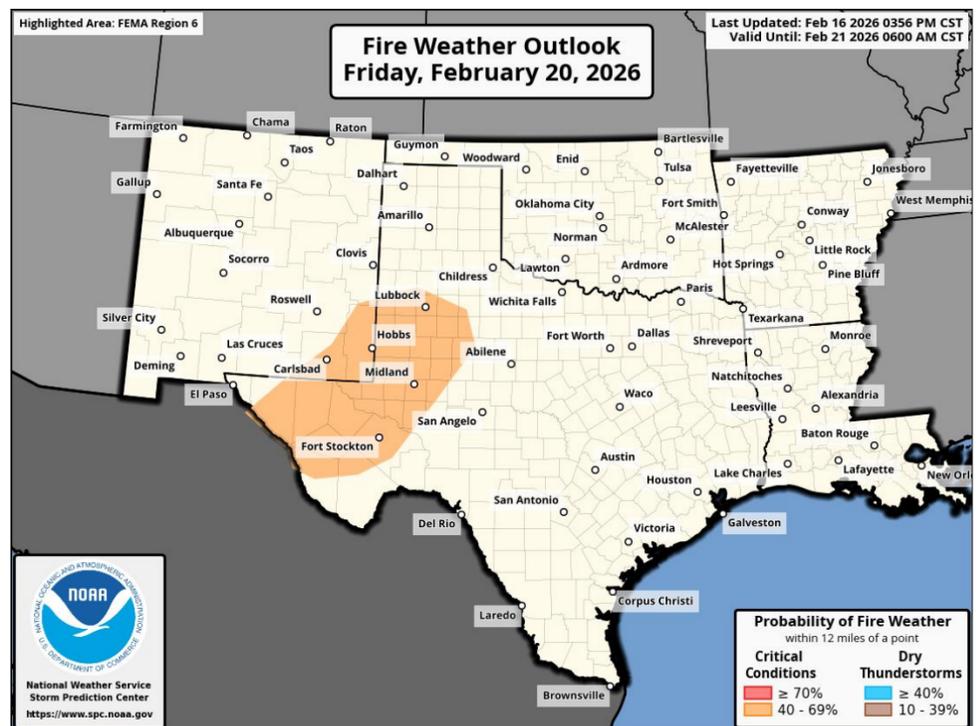
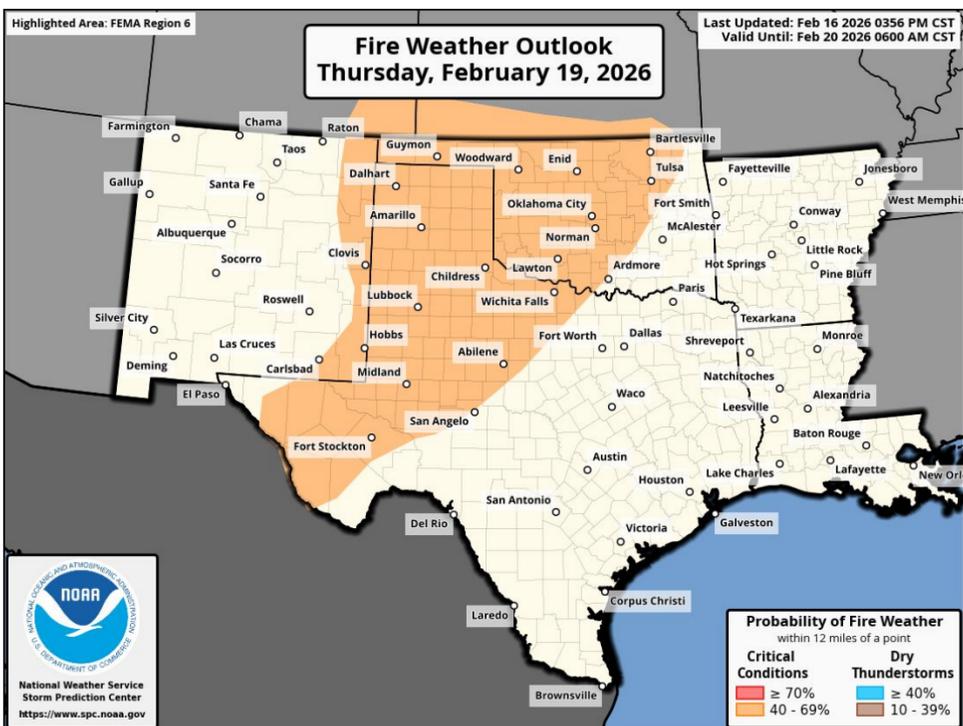
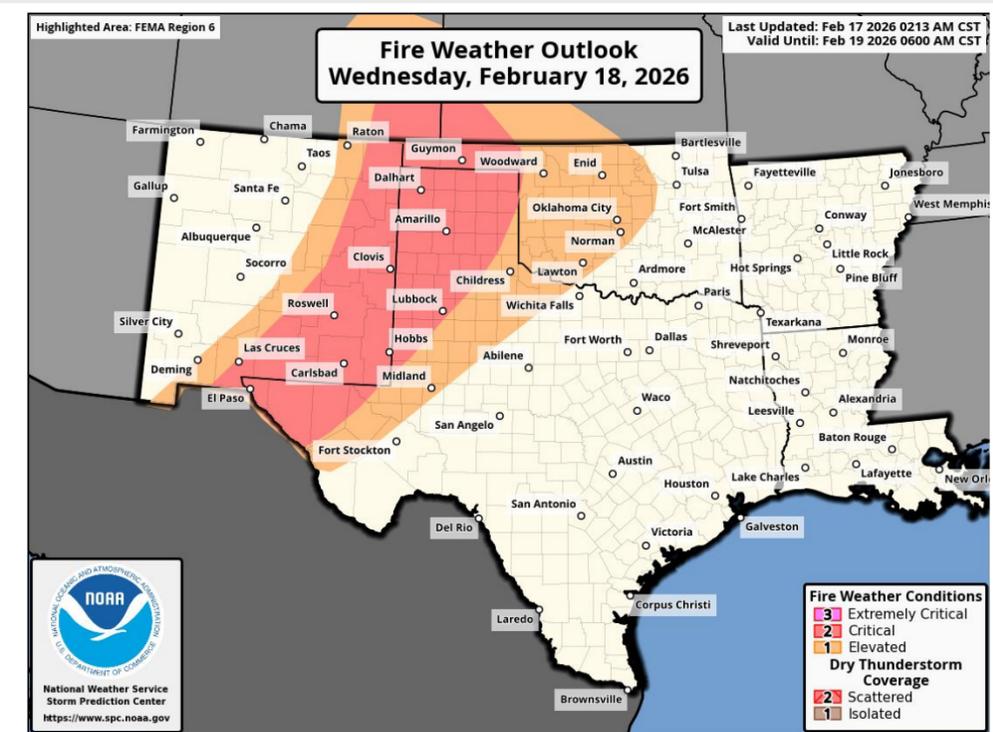
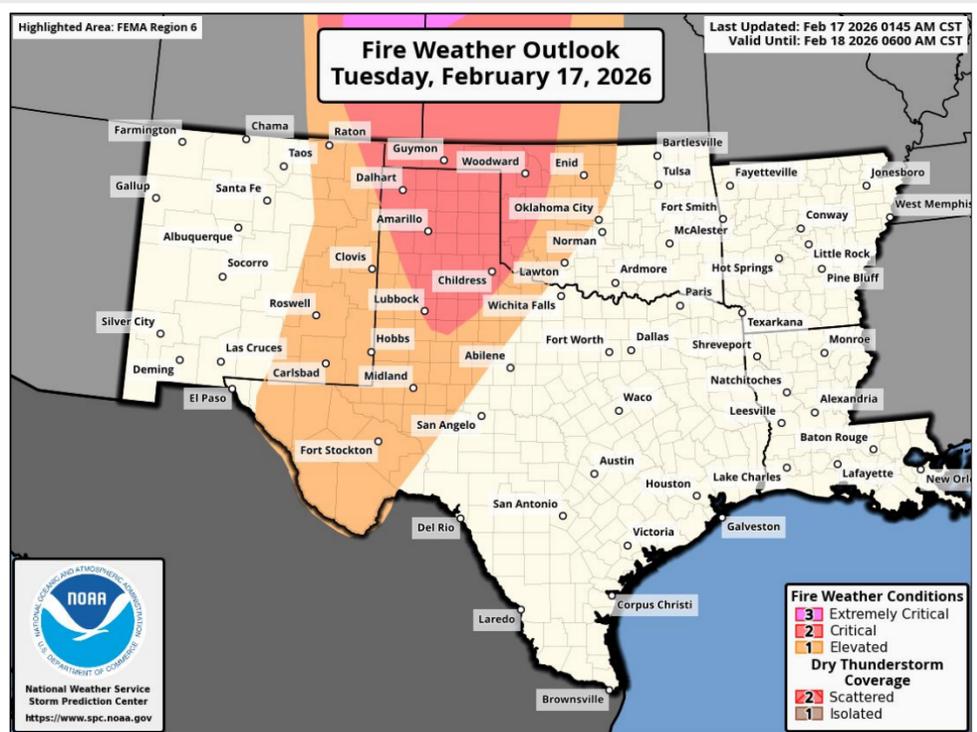
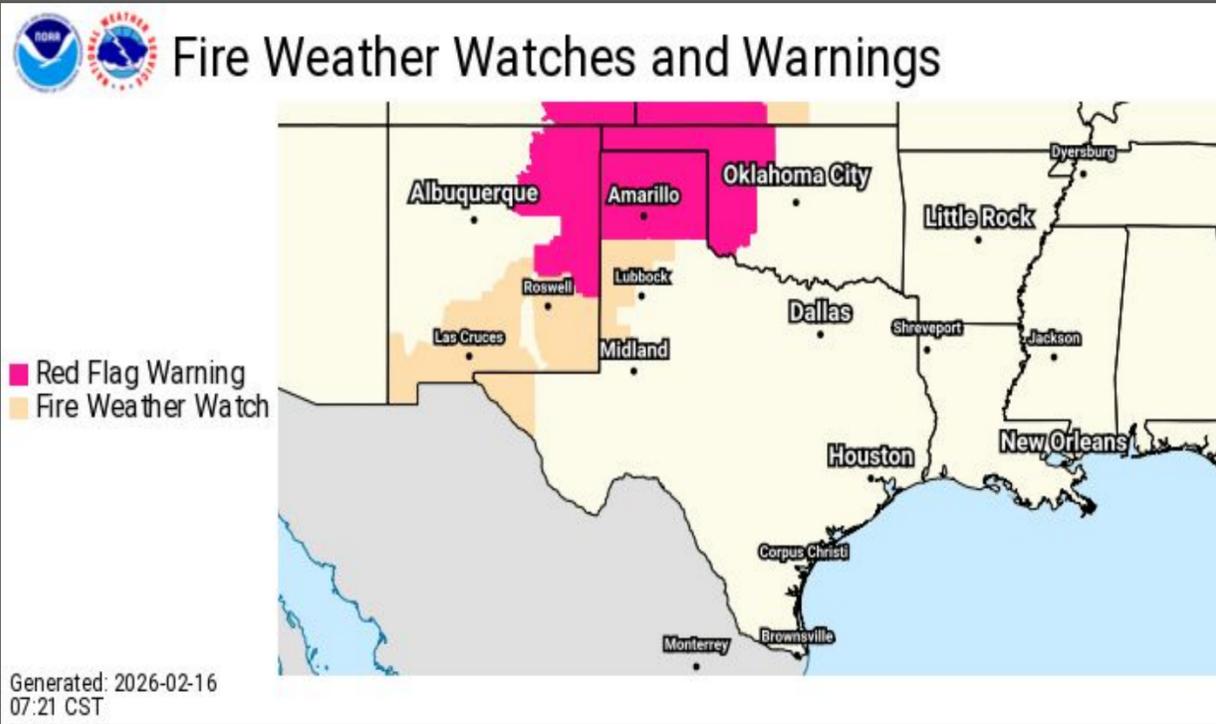


Today's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities





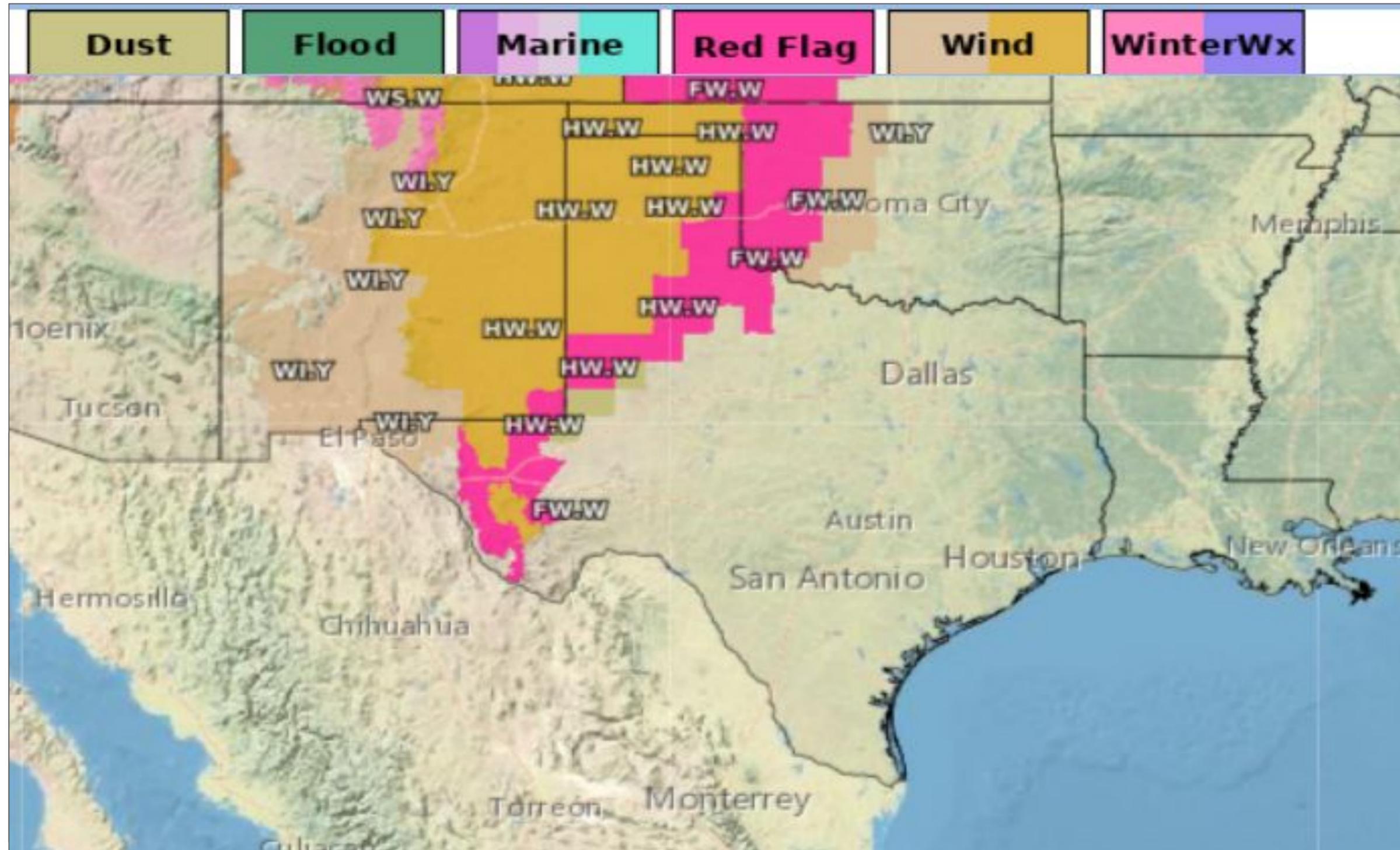
Fire Weather Outlooks





Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

Wind, Severe, Winter, and Flood Hazards



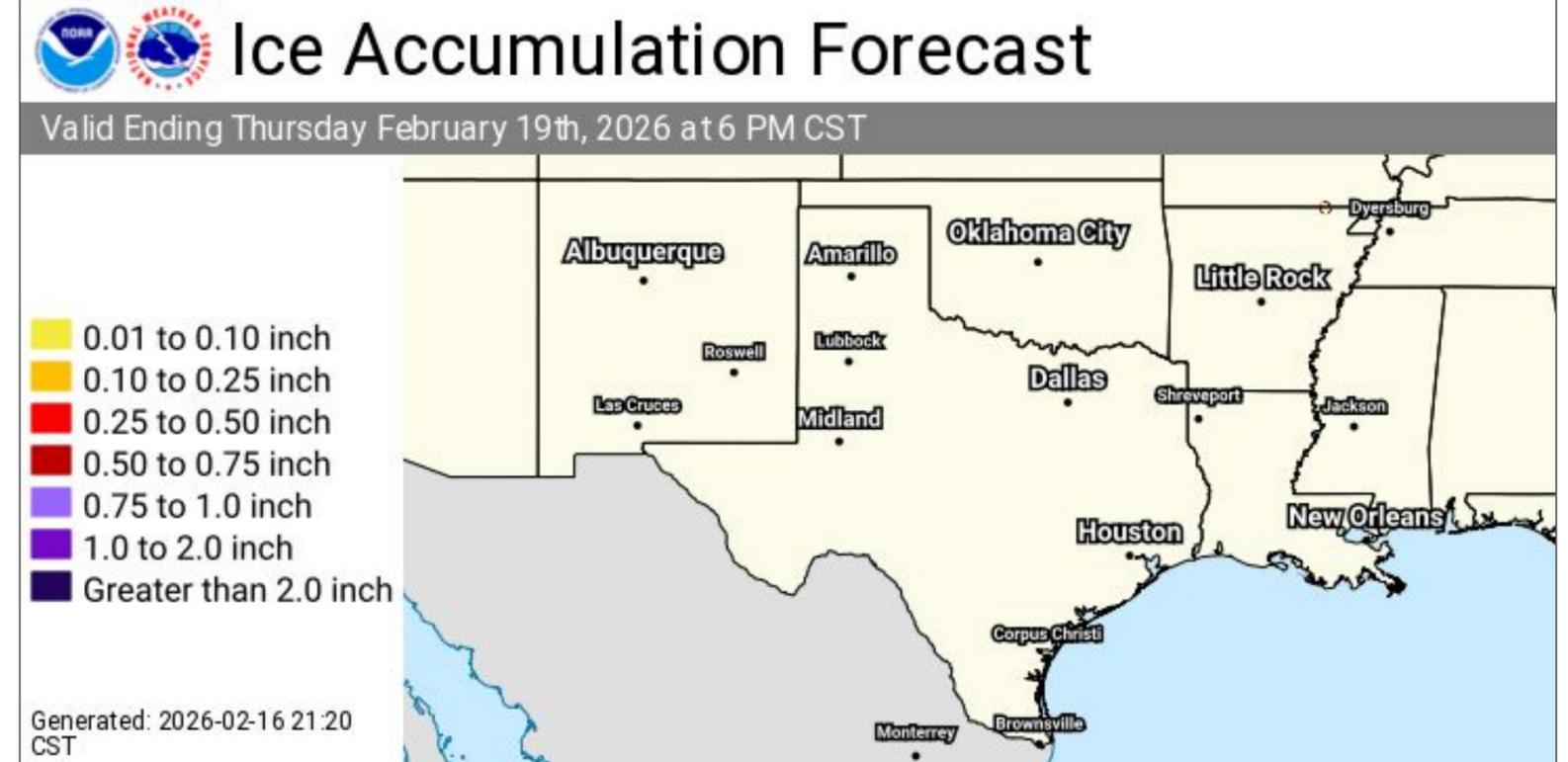
Red Flag Warning and High Wind Warning Tuesday for the TX/OK Panhandles, W OK, W TX and E NM for wind gusts of up to 65 mph and relative humidity under 15%. Valid through 8 PM CT this evening.

Winter Storm Warning for the Sangre de Cristo and Tulas Mountains in N NM through Tuesday evening for snowfall of up to 4" below 8000 feet and 4-8" above 8000 feet. Wind gusts of 70 mph will cause whiteout conditions.



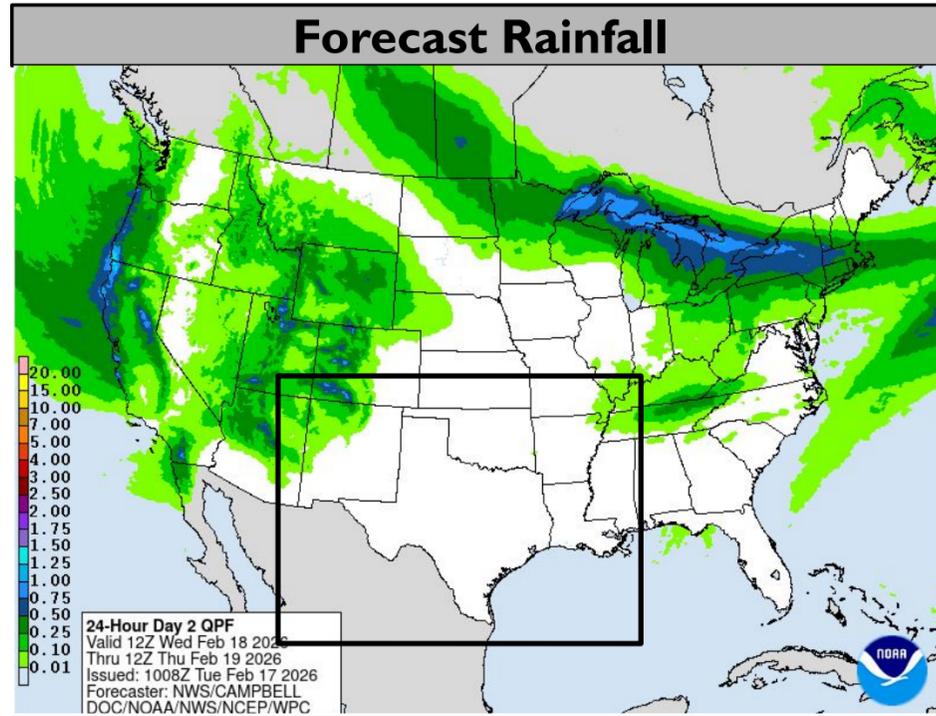
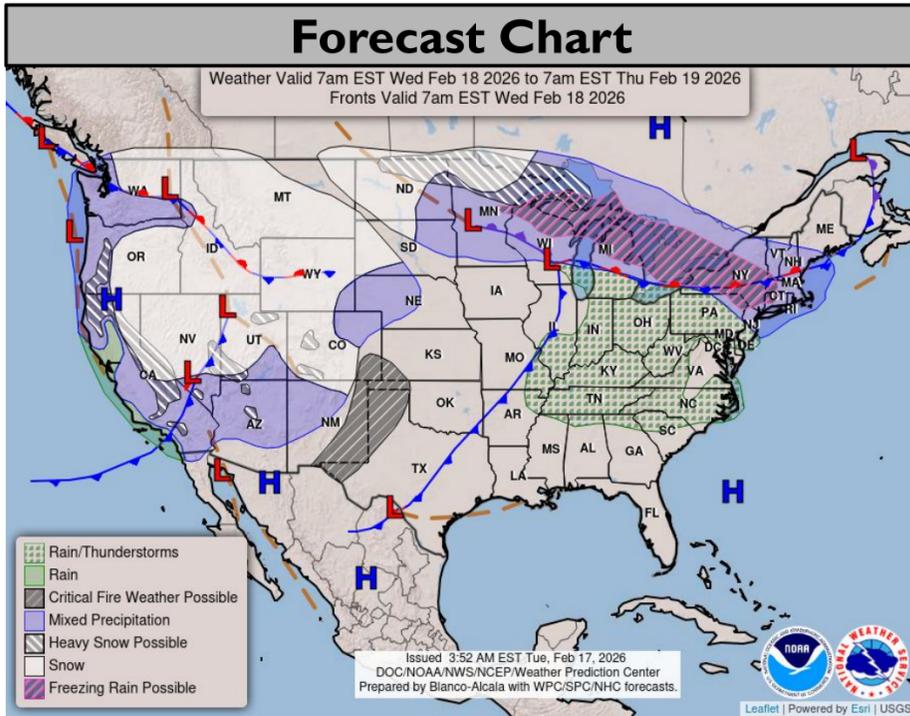
Winter Weather

Through the next 3 days



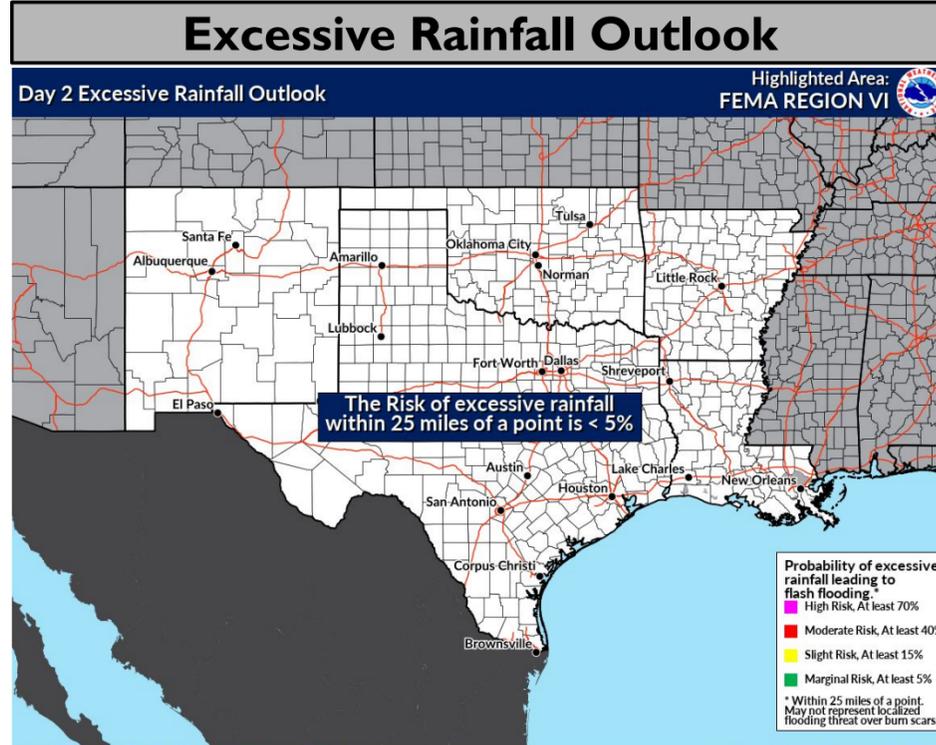
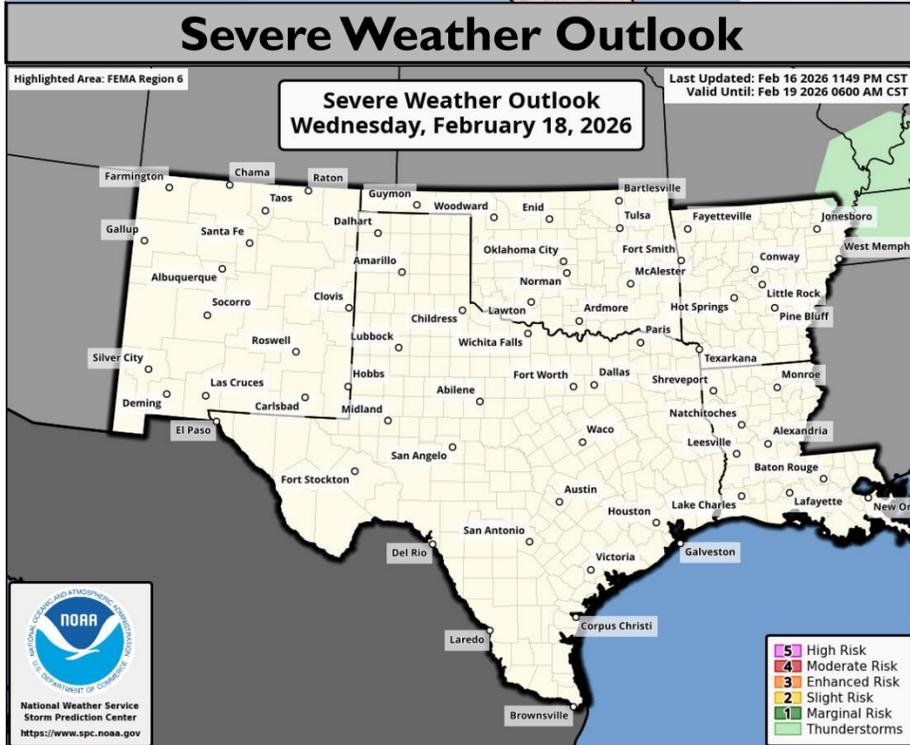


Tomorrow's Weather



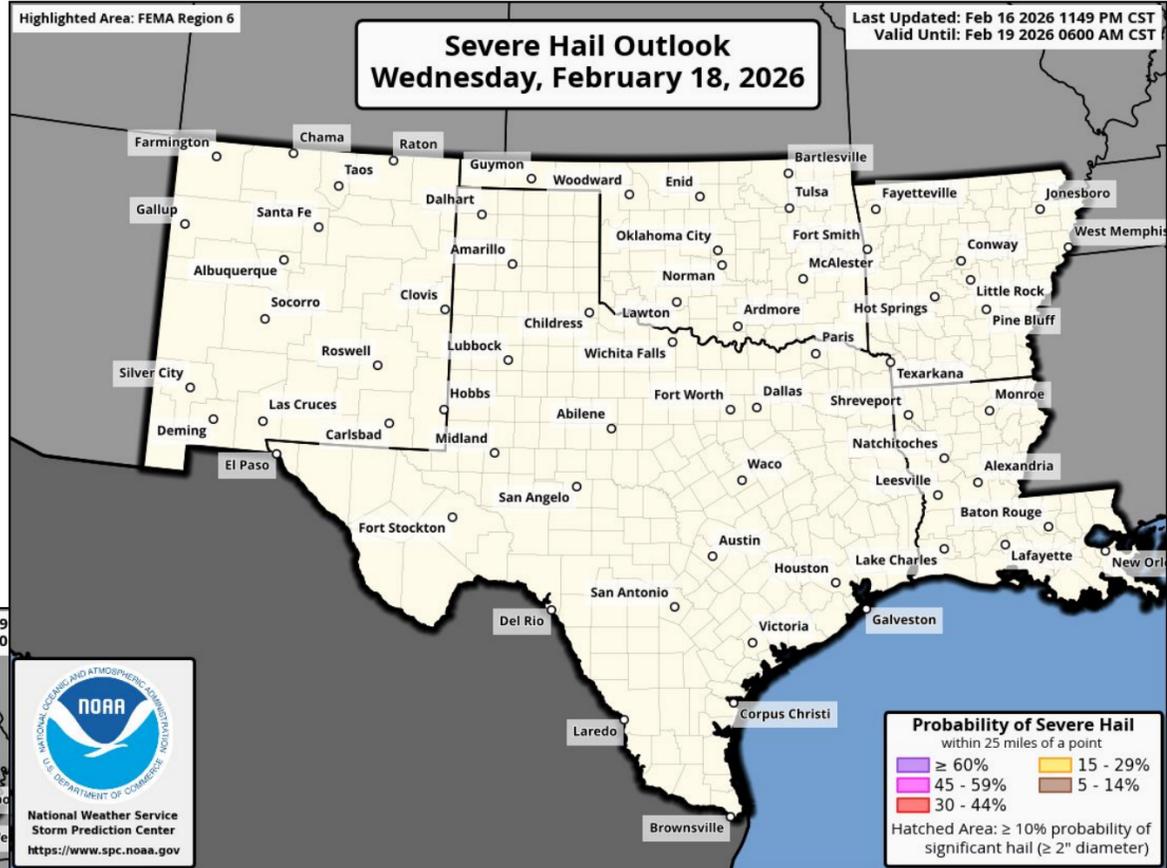
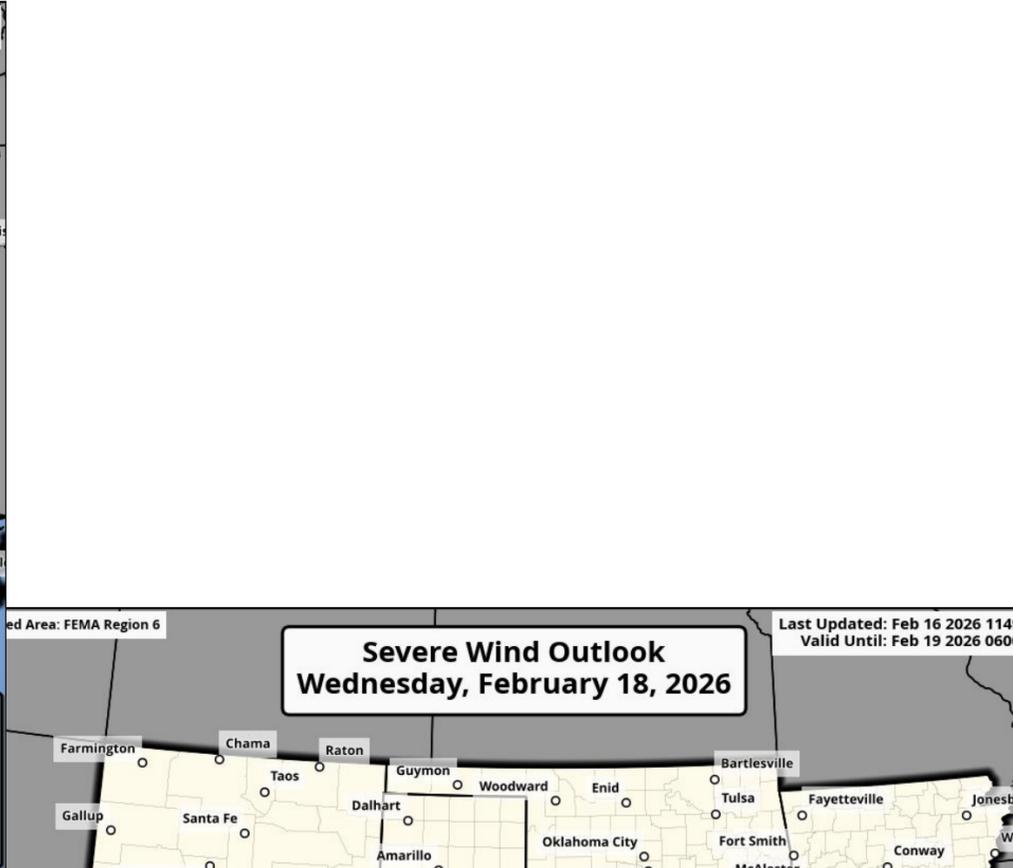
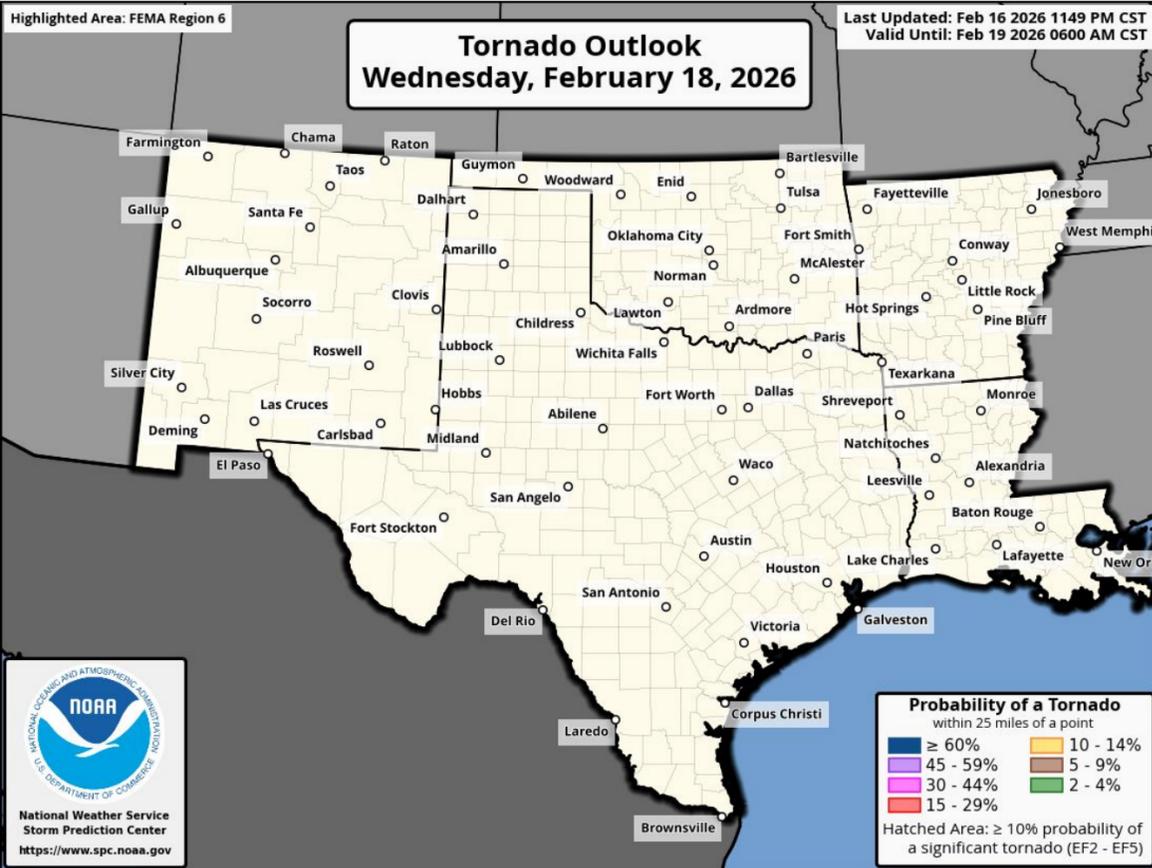
Critical (level 2 of 3) fire weather conditions in E NM, TX/OK Panhandles.

Elevated (level 1 of 3) fire weather conditions in W OK, W TX.





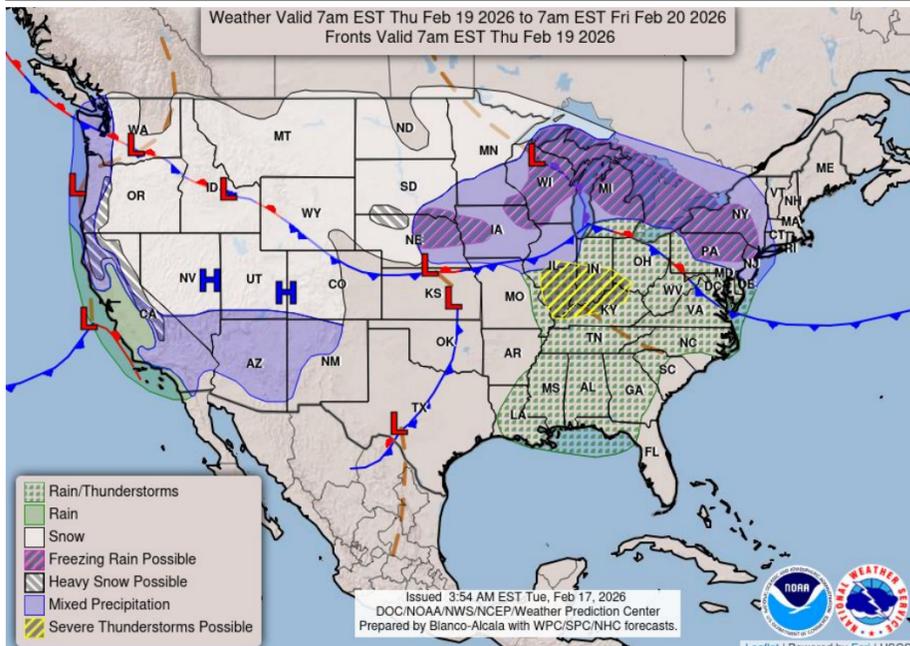
Tomorrow's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities



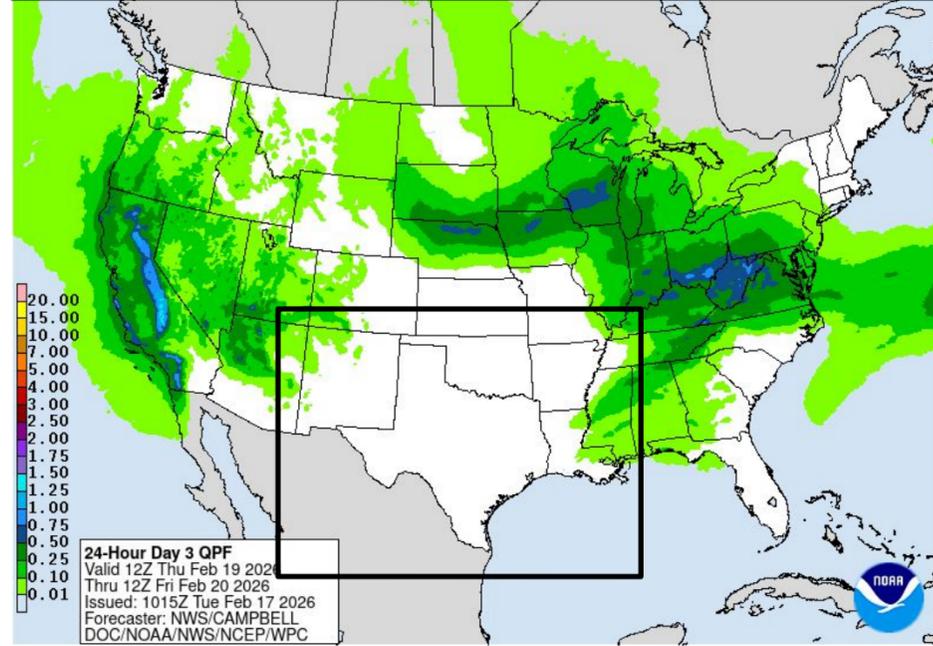


Thursday's Weather

Forecast Chart

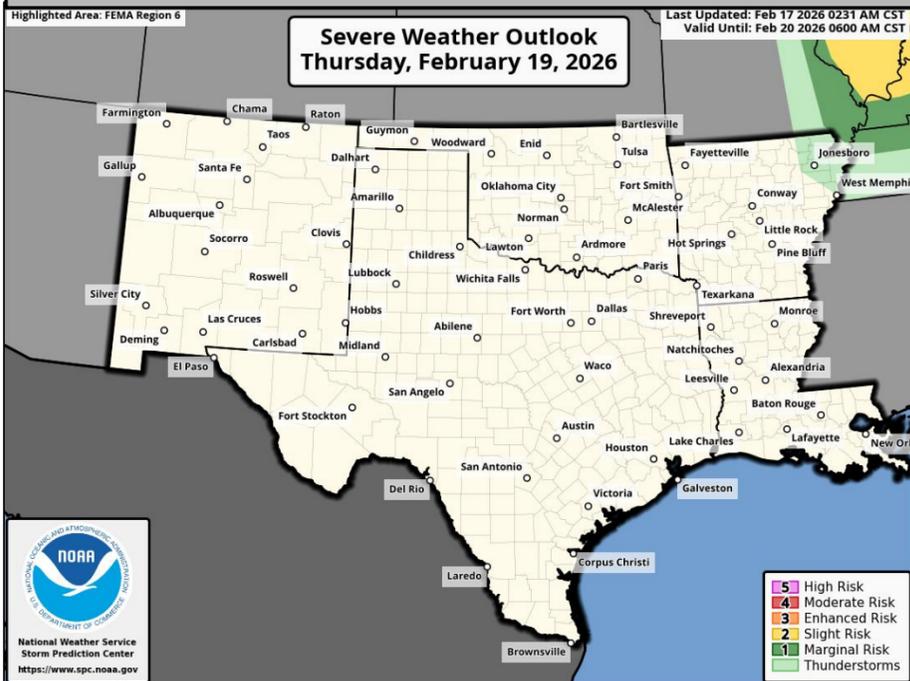


Forecast Rainfall

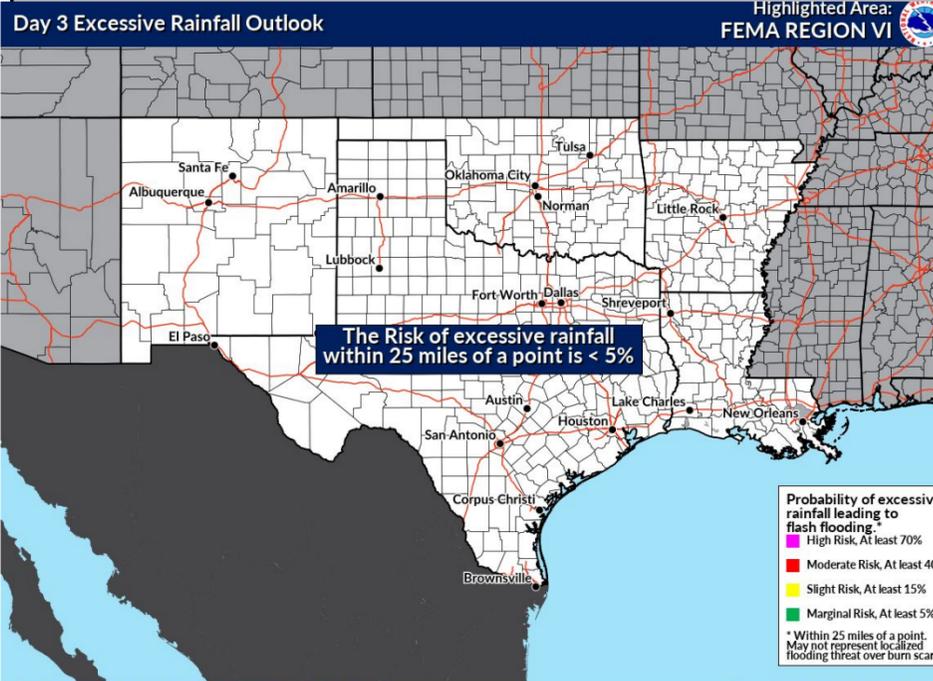


Elevated to critical (levels 1-2 of 3) fire weather conditions in E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, W TX, W OK.

Severe Weather Outlook



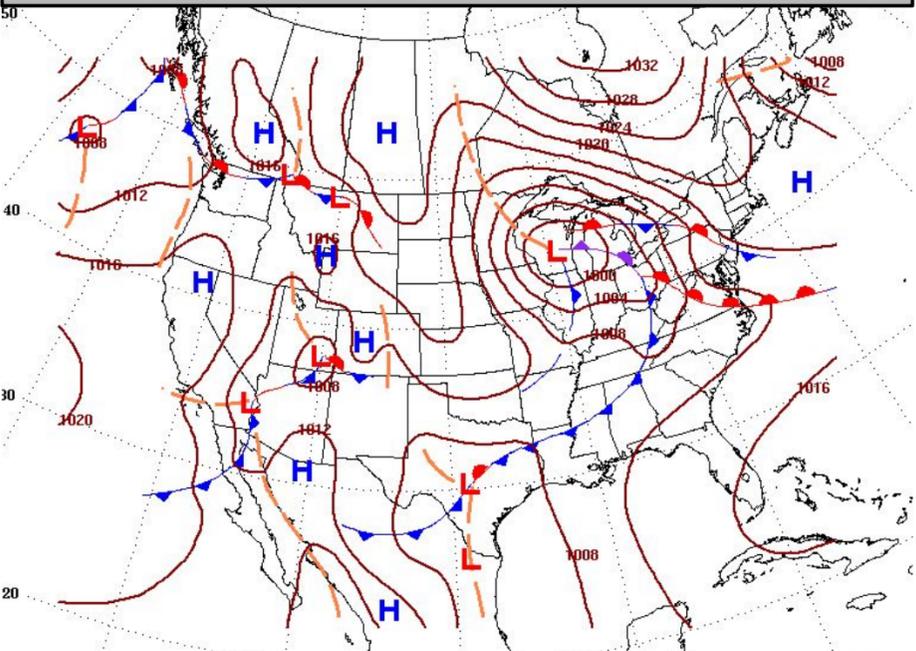
Excessive Rainfall Outlook



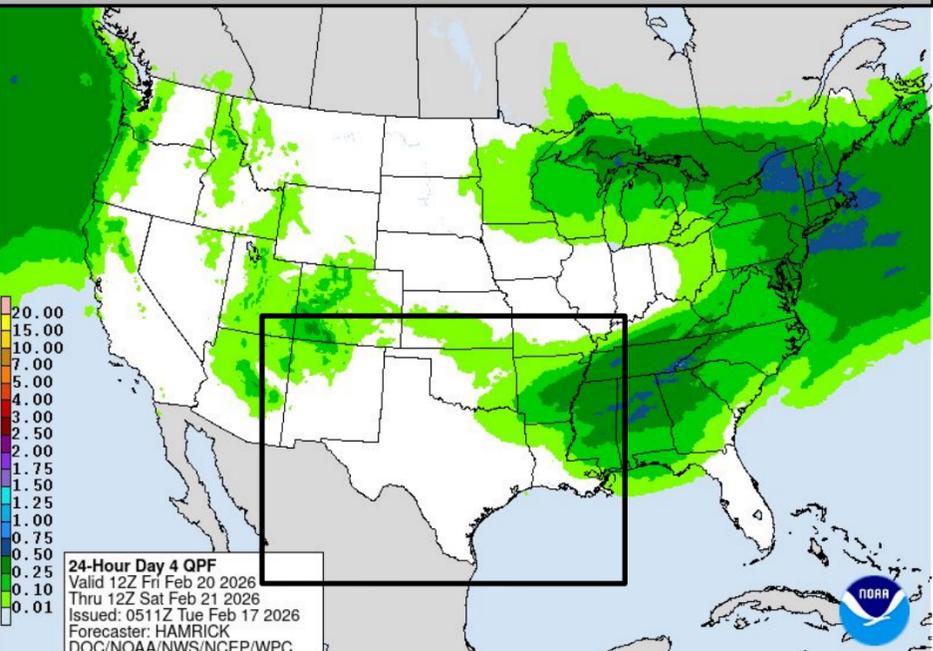


Friday's Weather

Forecast Chart

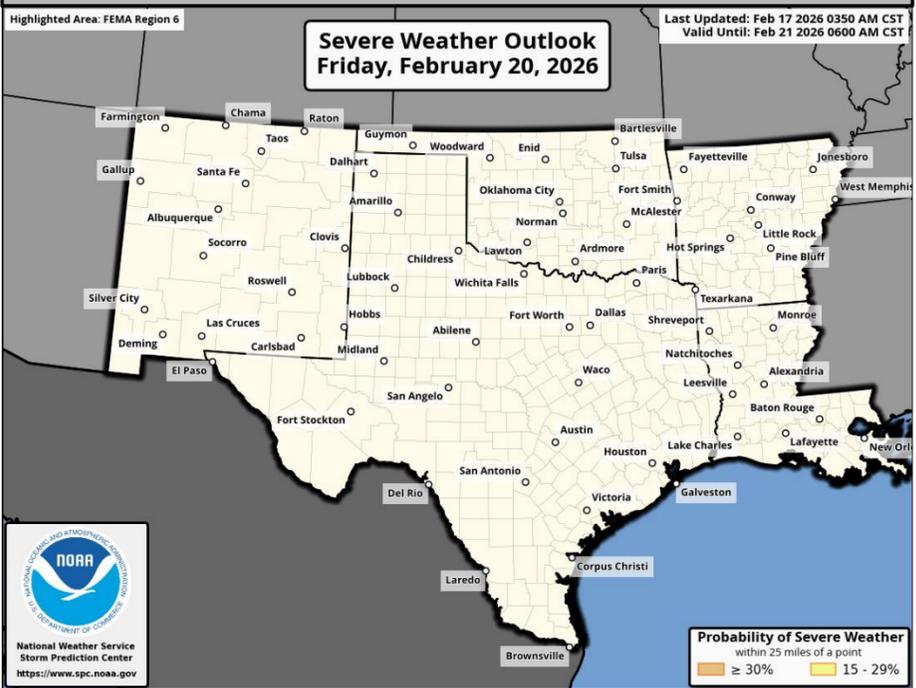


Forecast Rainfall

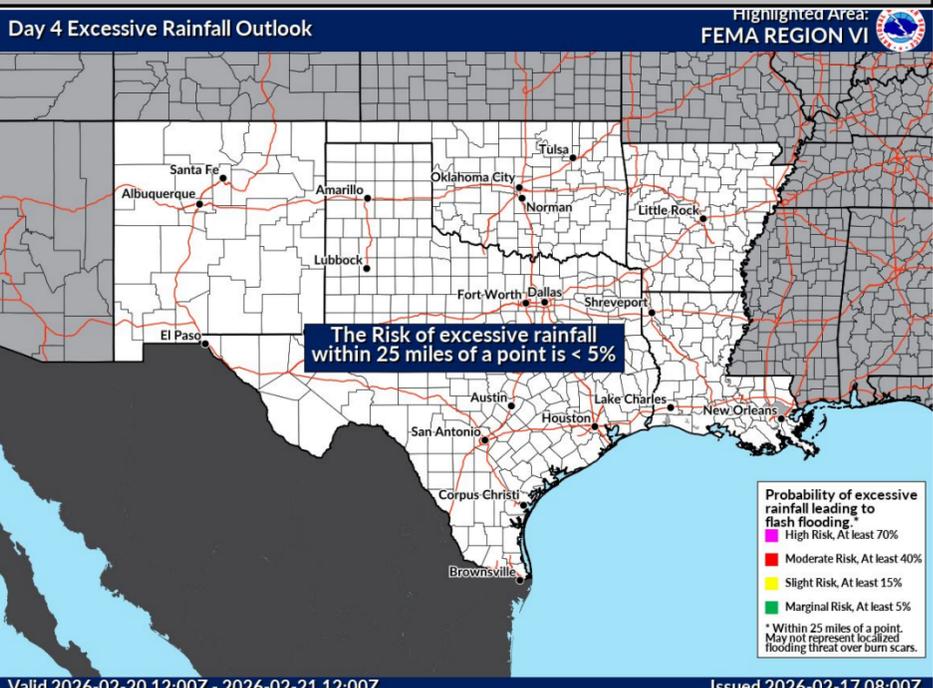


Elevated (level 1 of 3) fire weather concerns in SE NM, W TX, TX/OK Panhandles.

Severe Weather Outlook



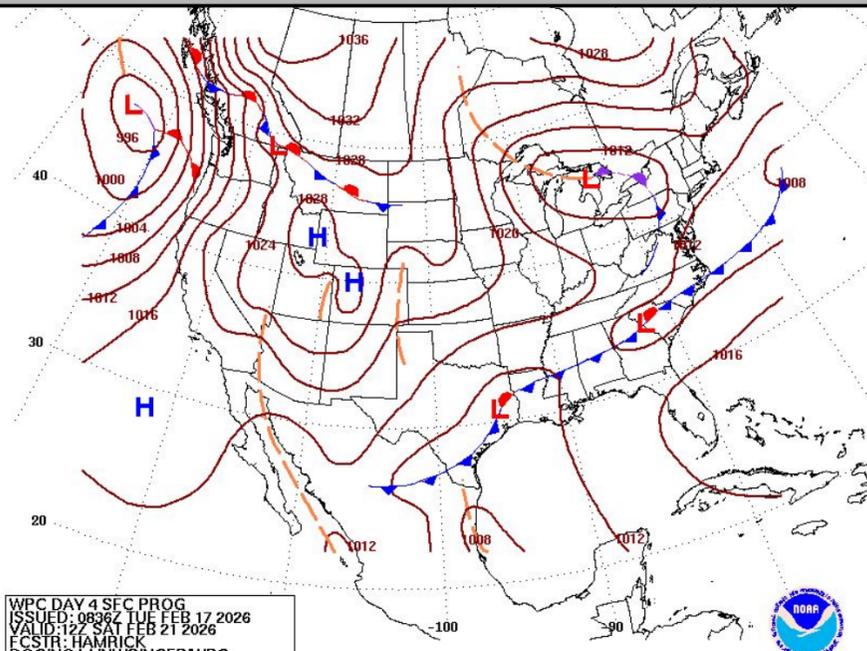
Excessive Rainfall Outlook





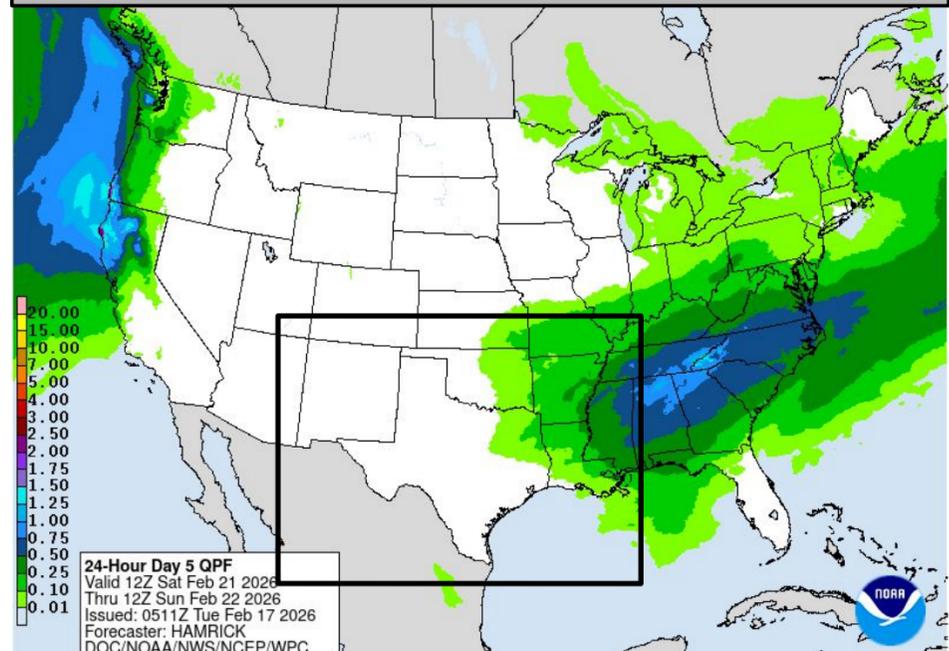
Saturday's Weather

Forecast Chart



WPC DAY 4 SEC PROG
ISSUED: 0836Z TUE FEB 17 2026
VALID: 12Z SAT FEB 21 2026
FCSTR: HAMRICK
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

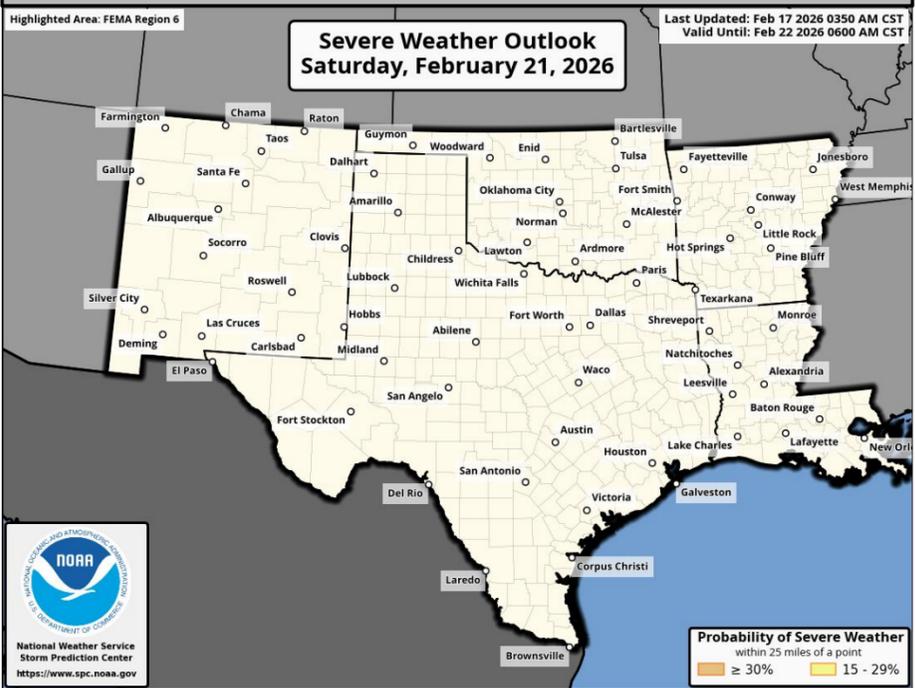
Forecast Rainfall



24-Hour Day 5 QPF
Valid 12Z Sat Feb 21 2026
Thru 12Z Sun Feb 22 2026
Issued: 0511Z Tue Feb 17 2026
Forecaster: HAMRICK
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Monitoring C/S TX for fire weather concerns behind a cold front.

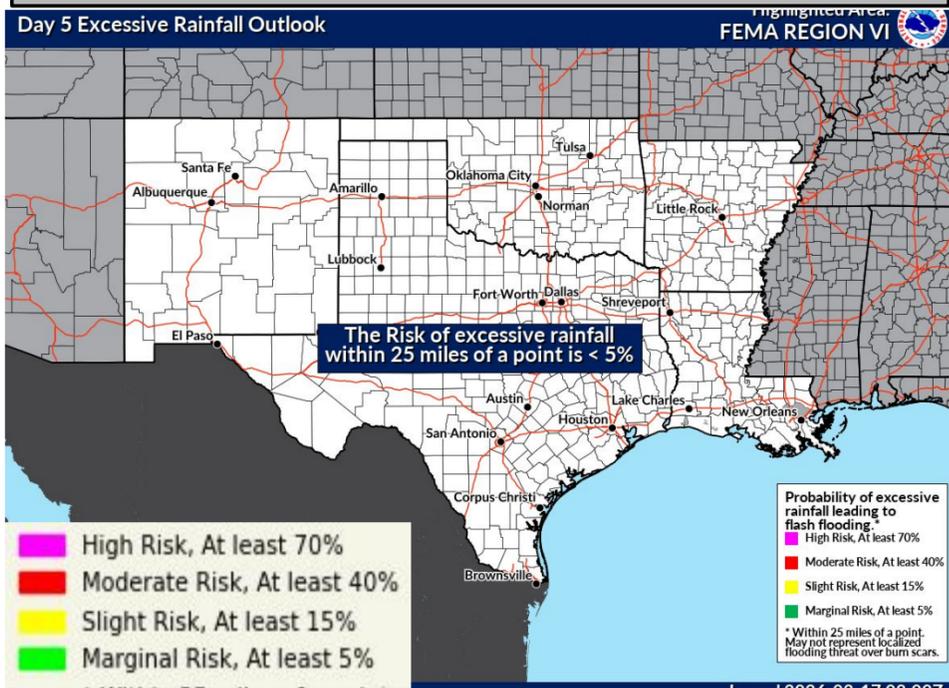
Severe Weather Outlook



Severe Weather Outlook
Saturday, February 21, 2026

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

Excessive Rainfall Outlook



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

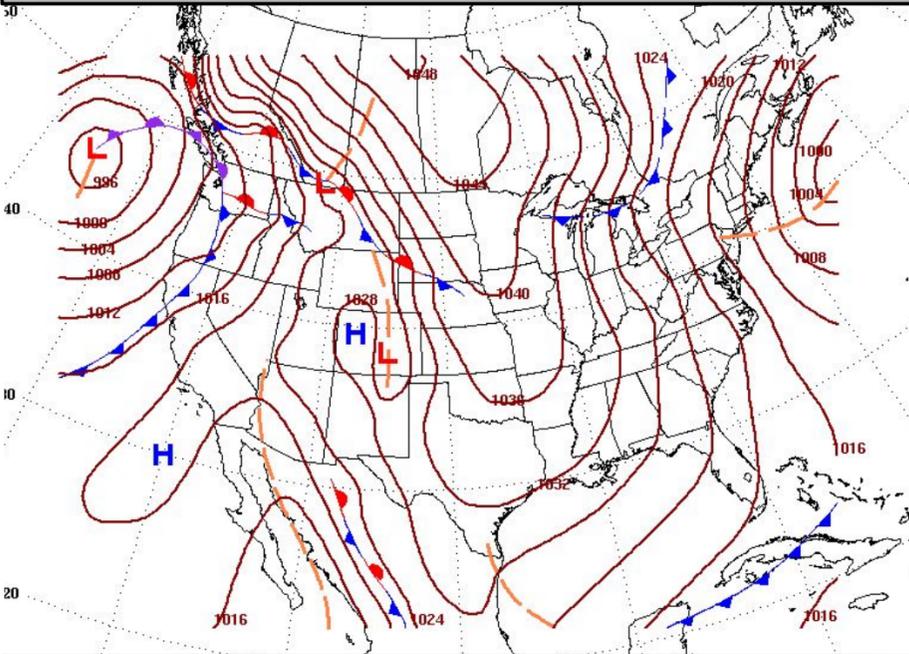
High Risk, At least 70%
Moderate Risk, At least 40%
Slight Risk, At least 15%
Marginal Risk, At least 5%

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.

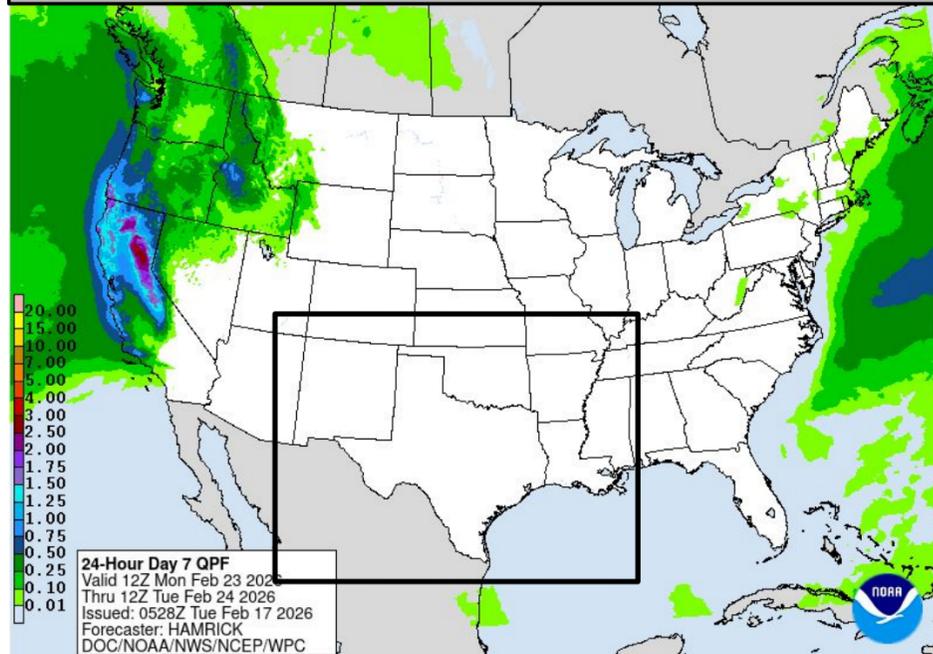


Monday's Weather

Forecast Chart

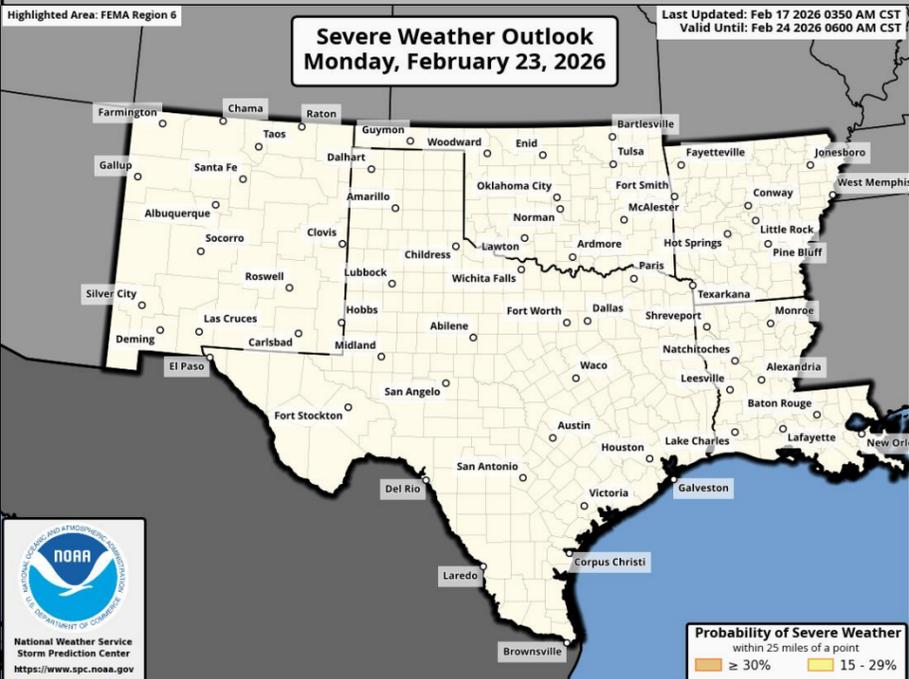


Forecast Rainfall



No significant weather expected.

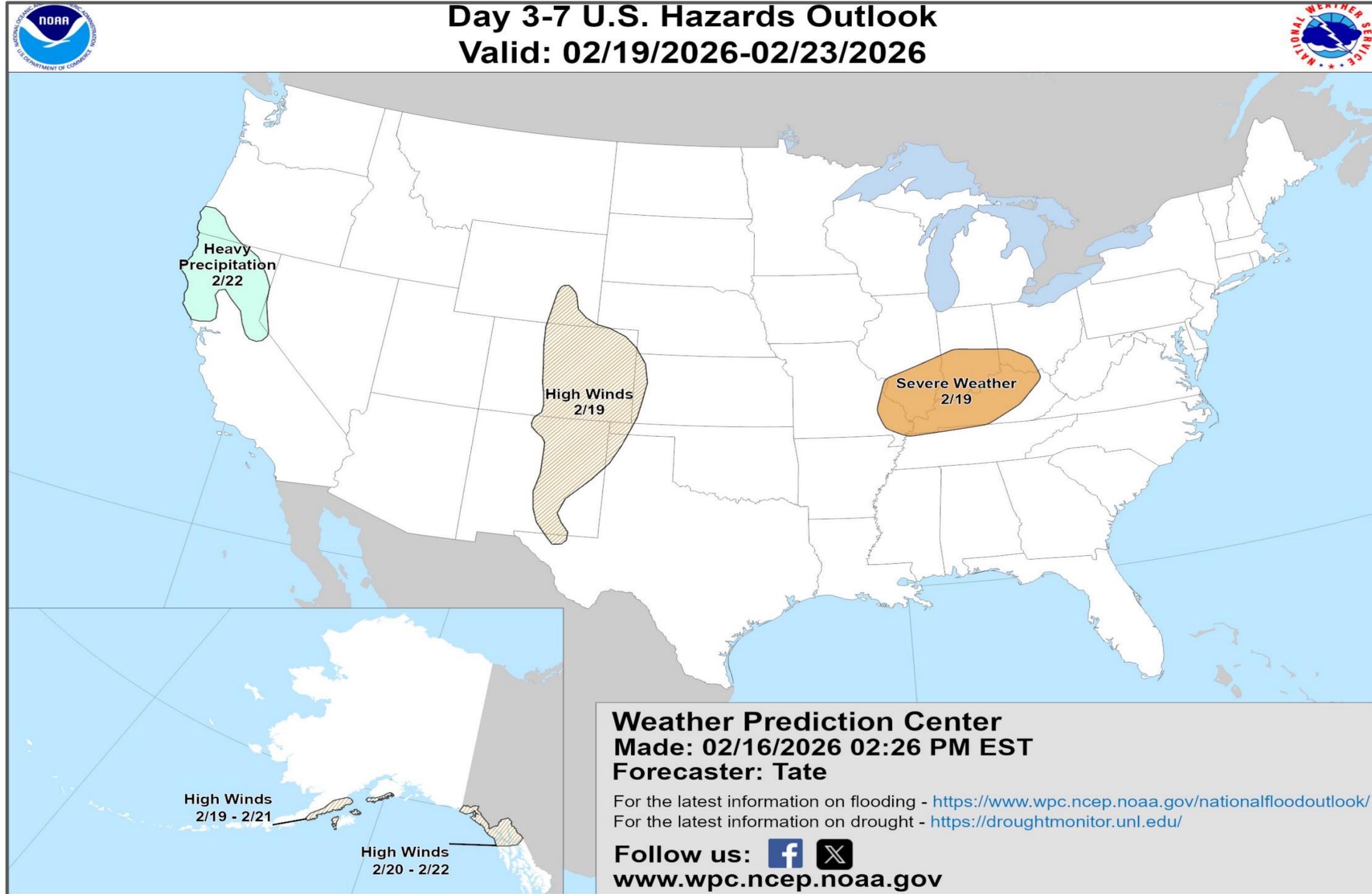
Severe Weather Outlook



**Excessive Rainfall Outlooks
not available beyond Day 5**

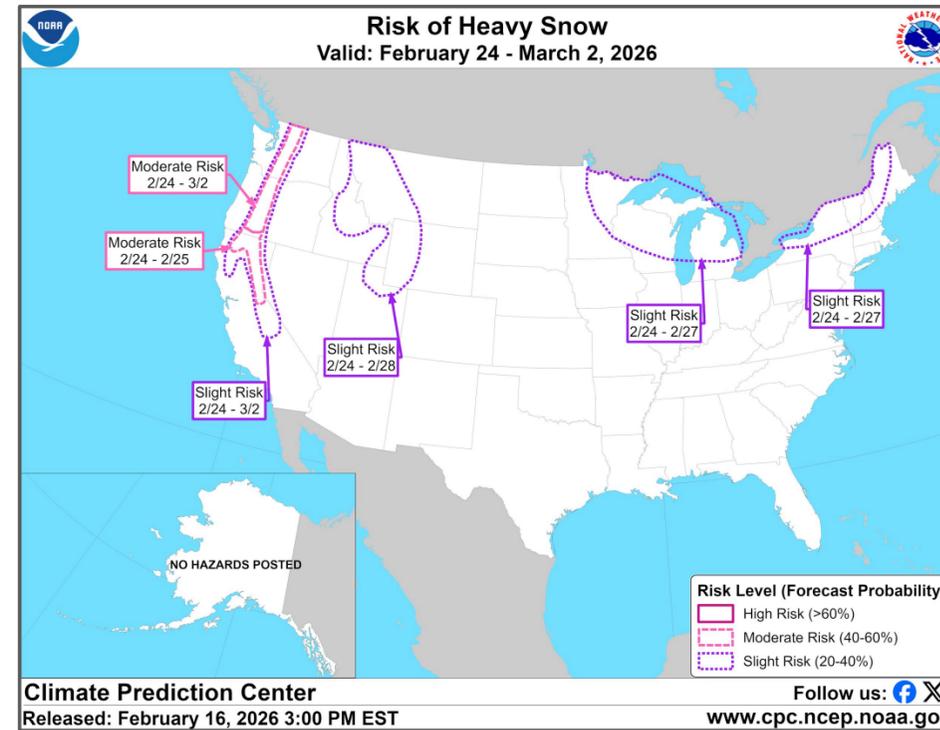
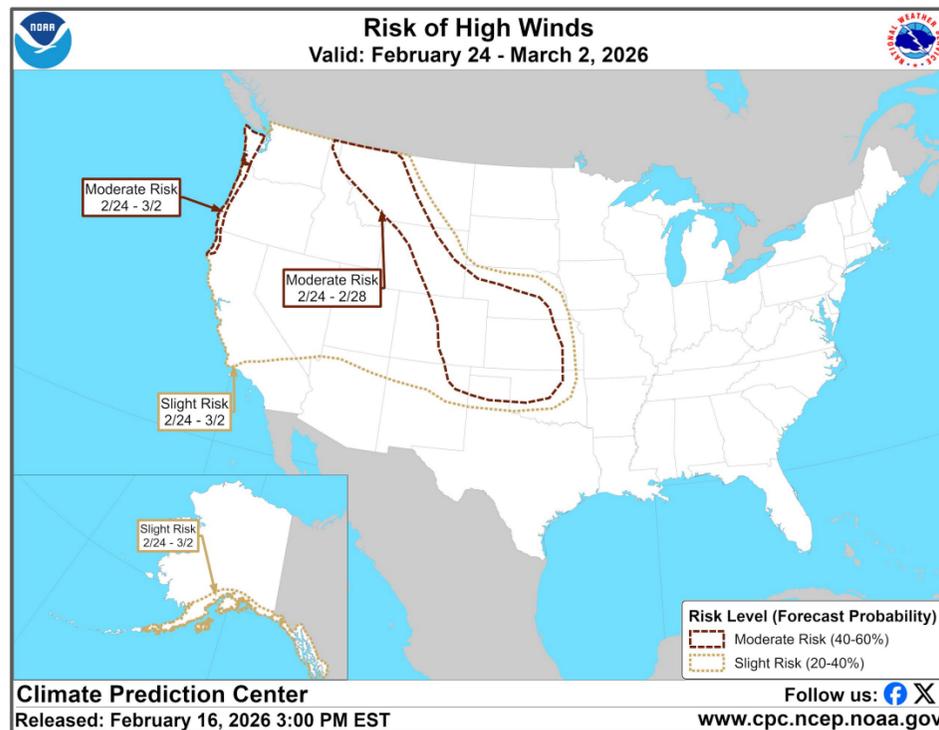
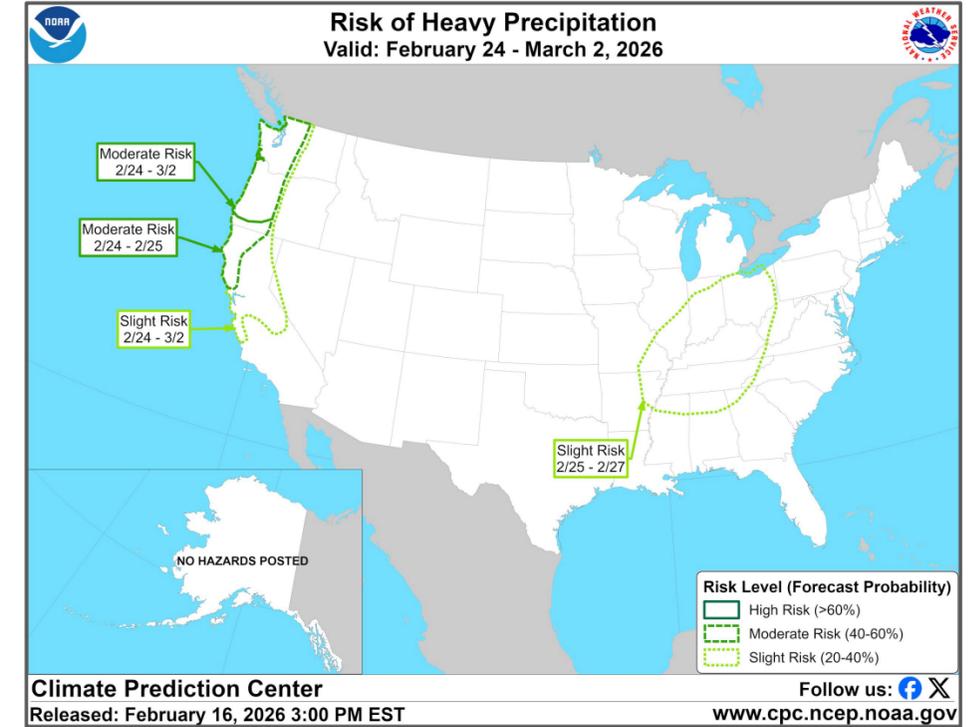
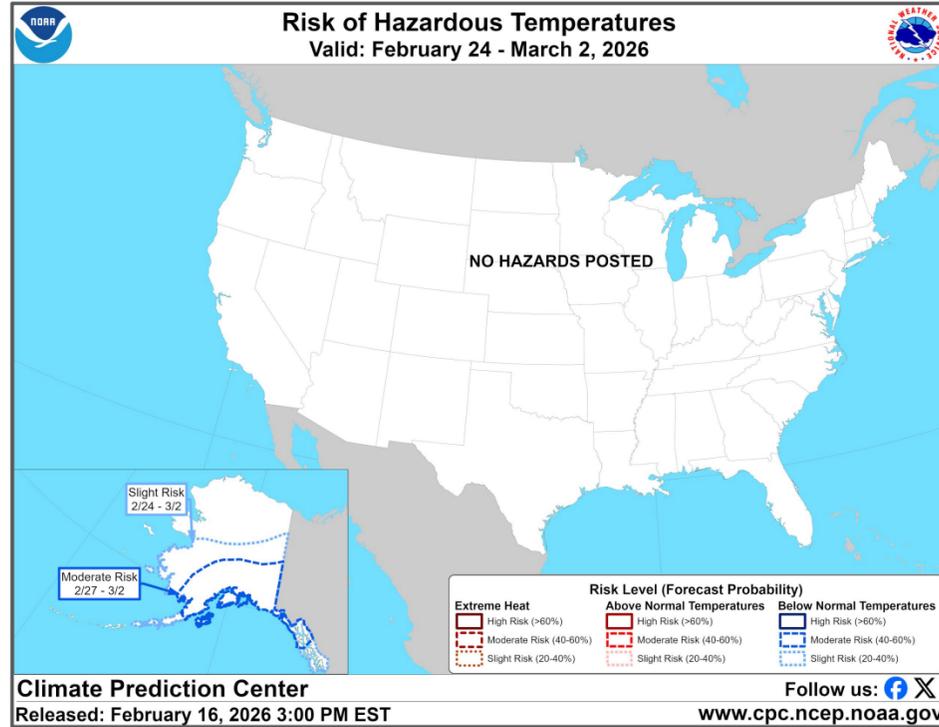
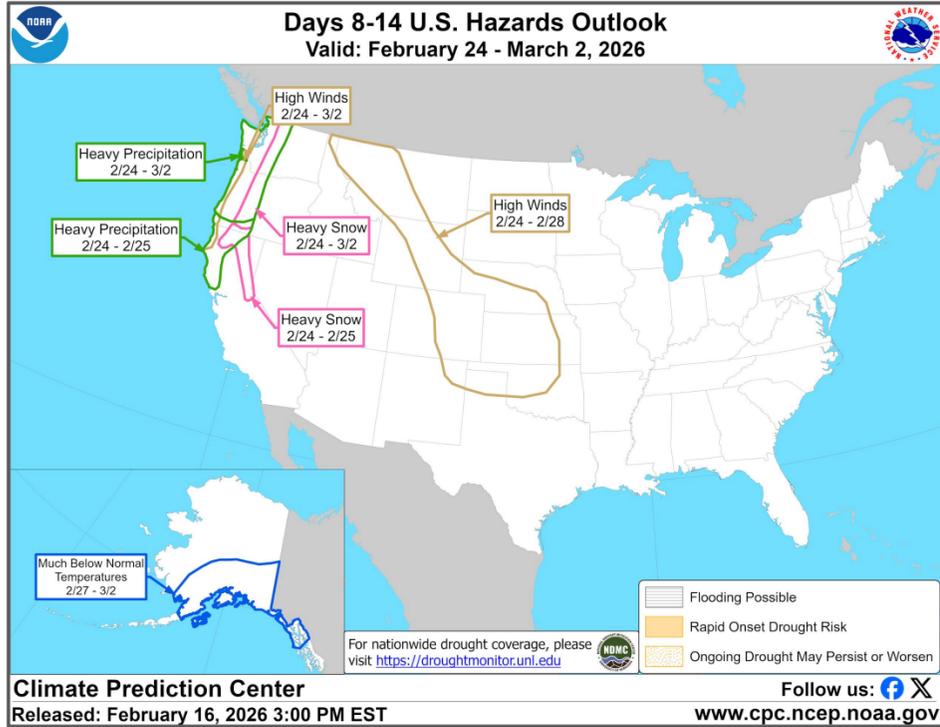


“Day 3-7” Hazards Outlook





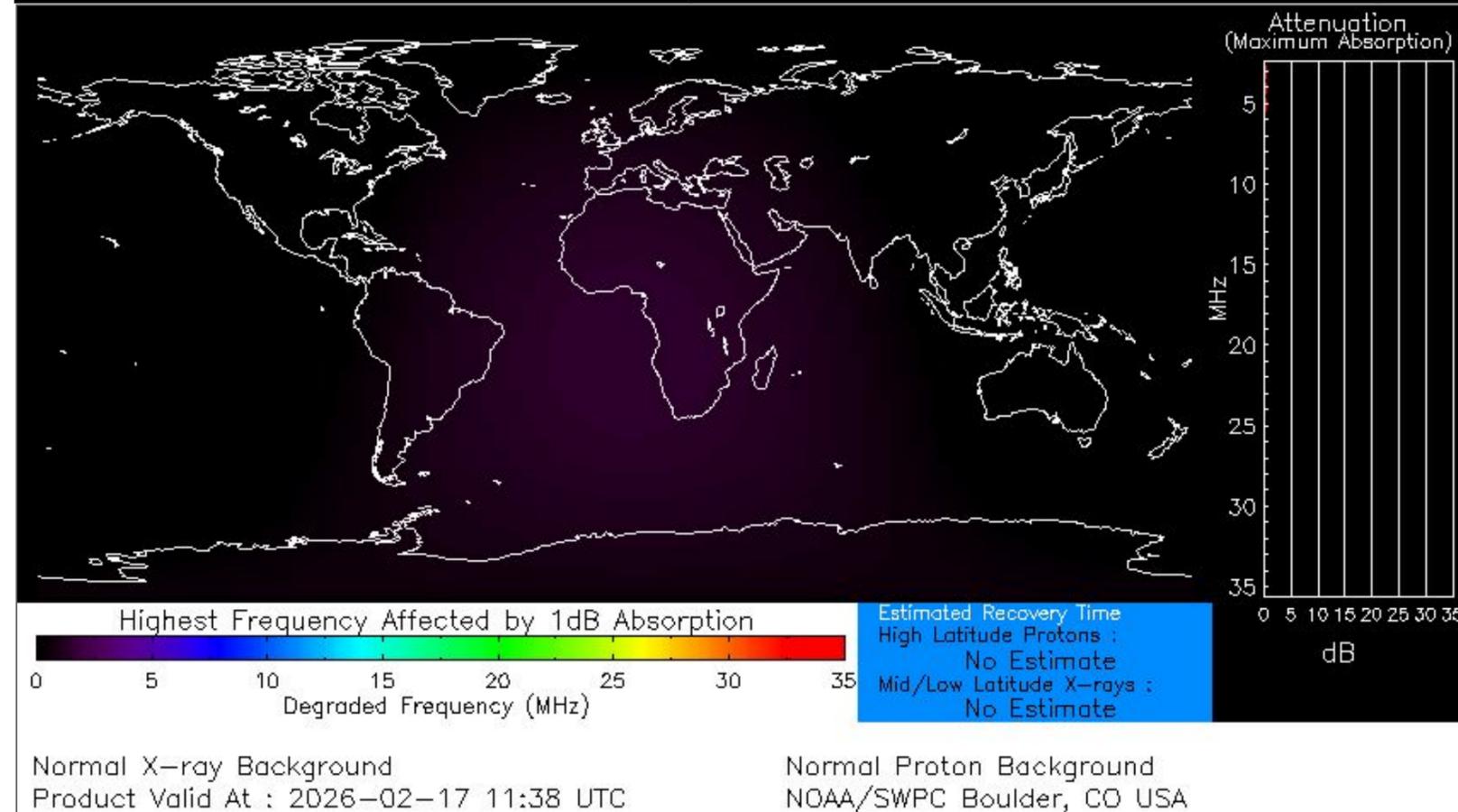
"Day 8-14" Hazards Outlook





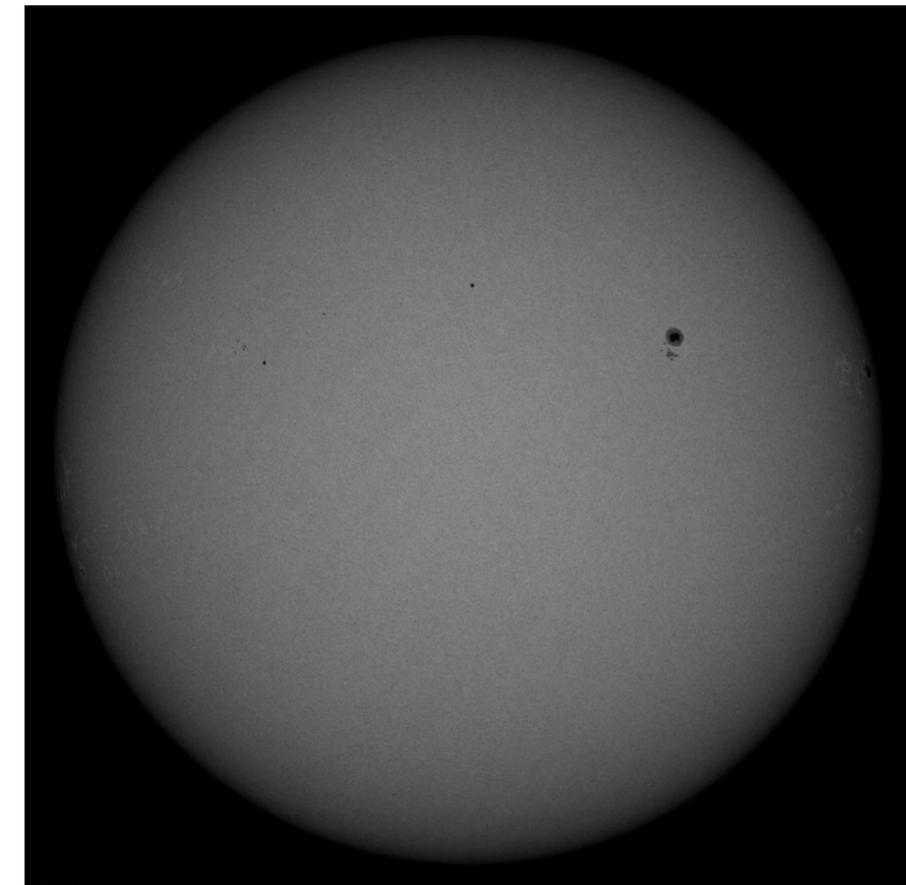
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast

	Tuesday, Feb 17	Wednesday, Feb 18	Thursday, Feb 19
Geomagnetic Storms	Unsettled (Max Kp=3)	Unsettled (Max Kp=3)	Unsettled (Max Kp=3)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	10%	10%	10%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



[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>	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	<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>	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	<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>	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	<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>	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	<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>	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	<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



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