



FEMA



Prepared by  
Todd Beal

# FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Friday April 17, 2020

**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](http://www.weather.gov/srh).



- **Elevated fire weather conditions across S NM today and NM/W TX on Saturday.**
- **Isolated strong to severe storms late Saturday into the overnight hours across parts of TX/S AR/N LA. Isolated heavy rain and flash flooding across TX.**
- **Severe weather across parts of LA/TX/AR on Sunday. Isolated heavy rain and flash flooding possible across parts of TX/AR/LA.**
- **Moderate to major river flooding continues on the MS River, but most points have crested and will remain steady or continue a slow fall.**

# FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Apr 17, 2020 - Apr 21, 2020



**SR ROC**  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

| DAY / THREAT                | Fri         | Sat          | Sun                           | Mon         | Tue         |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Severe Storms               |             | TX/S AR/N LA | ETX/Central LA<br>ETX/S AR/LA |             |             |
| Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding |             | TX           | NE LA<br>E & SETX<br>LA/SE AR |             |             |
| Fire Weather                | S NM        | NM/W TX      |                               |             |             |
| Tropical Weather            |             |              |                               |             |             |
| Winter Weather              |             |              |                               |             |             |
| River Flooding              | MS River    | MS River     | MS River                      | MS River    | MS River    |
|                             | AR, LA, ETX | AR, LA, ETX  | AR, LA, ETX                   | AR, LA, ETX | AR, LA, ETX |

- No Weather Threats Expected
- Very Common – Happens Often
- Common – Happens Frequently
- Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
- Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
- Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

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

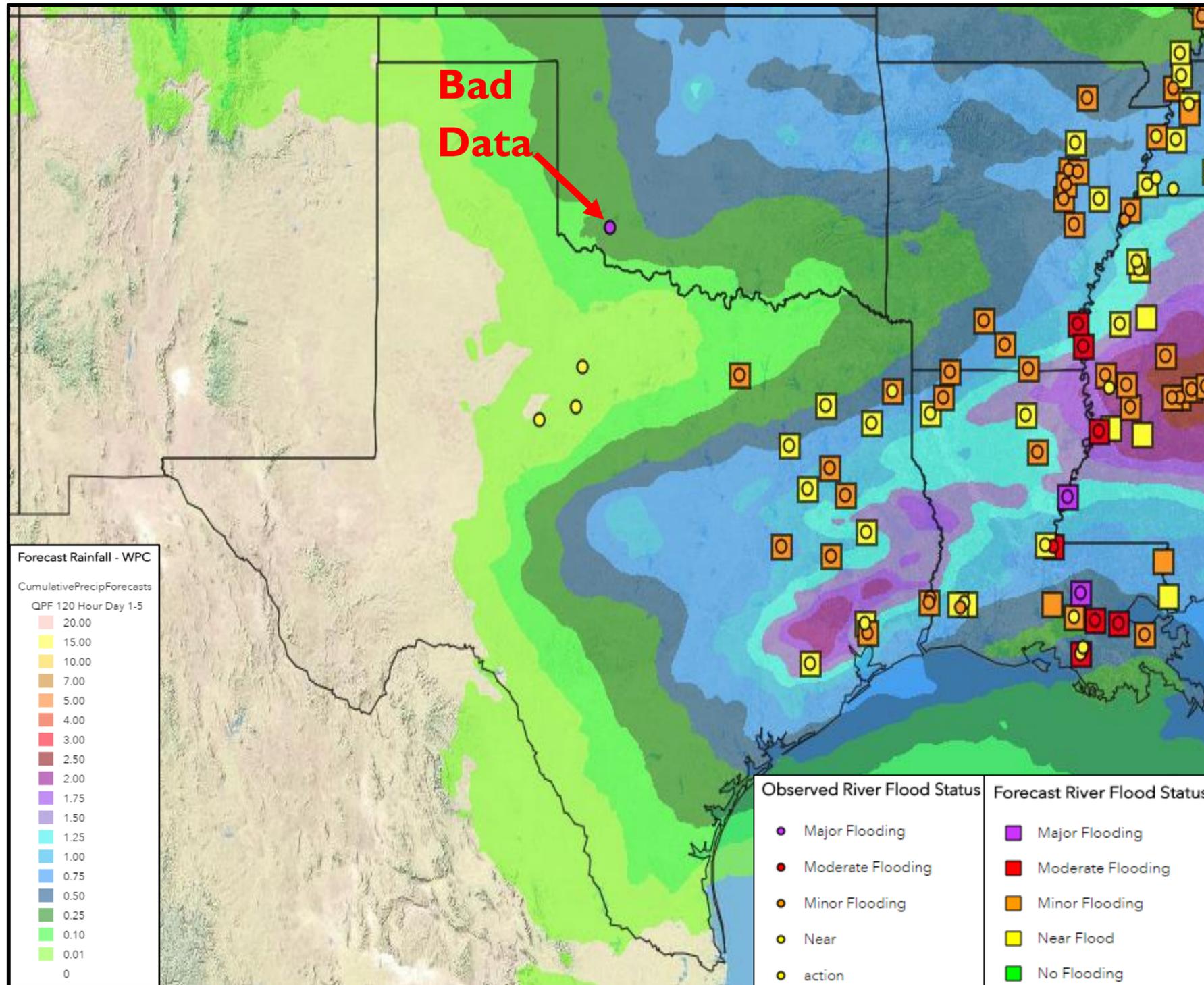
*For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.*

# 5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status



SR ROC  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

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



**Moderate to major flooding continues along the MS River. Most locations have crested and will remain steady or continue a slow fall. Significant falls should approach the lower reaches of the lower MS River late this weekend or early next week.**

- **Major flooding is occurring near Baton Rouge, LA crested around 44 ft. Shipping and industrial activities significantly affected.**
- **The Bonnet Carré Floodway continues to operate and reduce flow at New Orleans, LA, maintaining 17.0ft (minor) flood stage through this week. Impacts to navigation. A 20 ft project levee protects the city.**

**The Atchafalaya River at Morgan City, LA will maintain moderate flood stage through this weekend. Some flooding of buildings possible.**

# Today's Weather

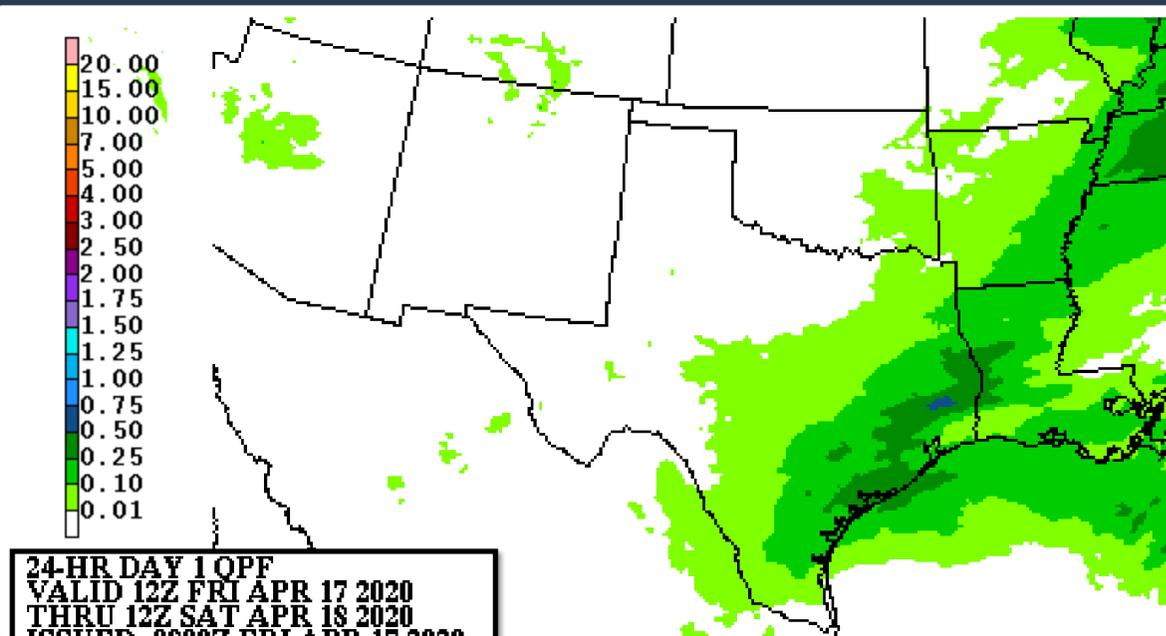
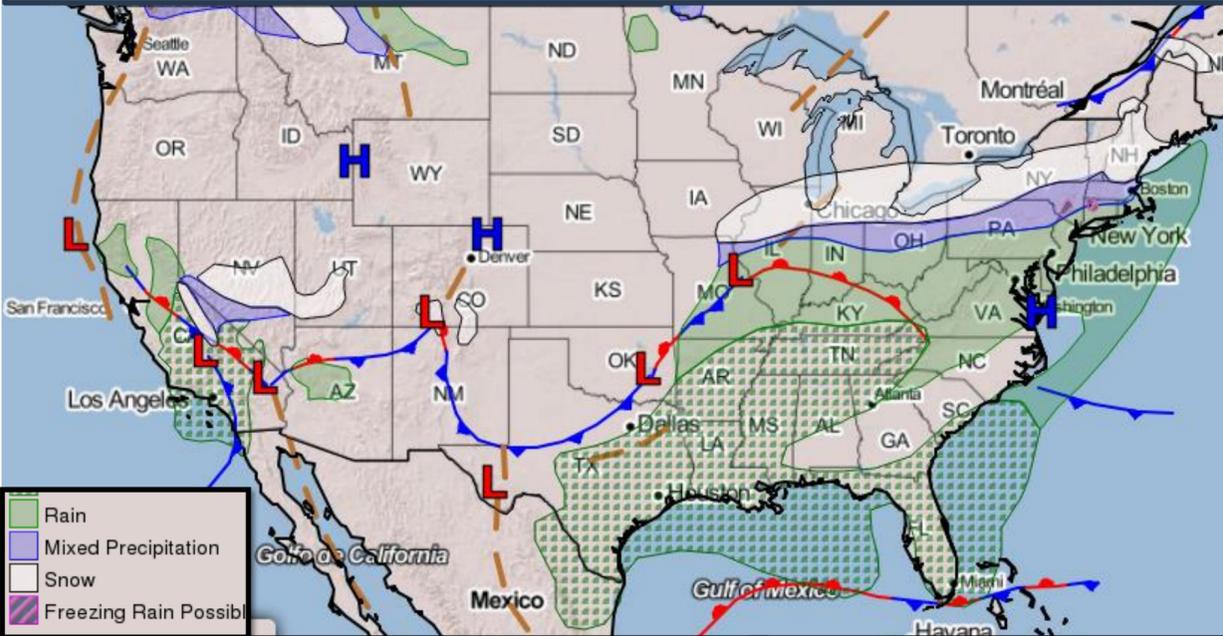


SR ROC  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

## Forecast Chart

## Forecast Rainfall

No significant weather expected.

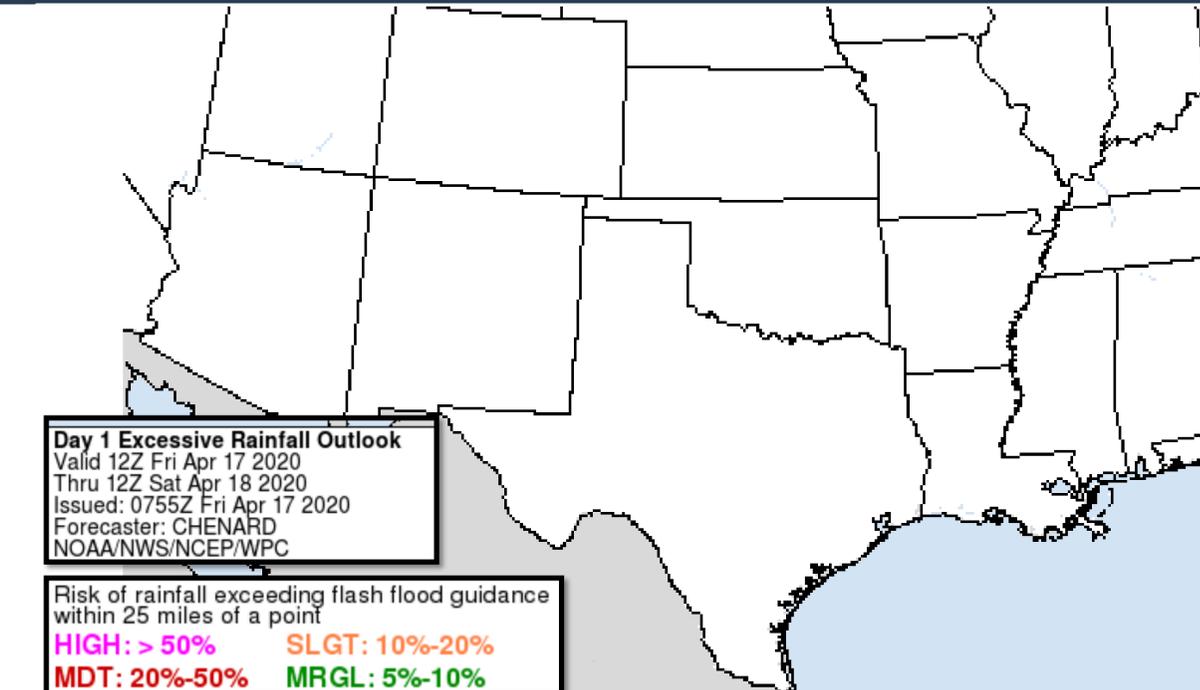


Weather Valid 8am EDT Fri Apr 17 2020 to 8am EDT Sat Apr 18 2020  
Fronts Valid 8am EDT Fri Apr 17 2020  
Issued 4:52 AM EDT Fri, Apr 17, 2020  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Orrison with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts.

24-HR DAY 1 OPF  
VALID 12Z FRI APR 17 2020  
THRU 12Z SAT APR 18 2020  
ISSUED: 0809Z FRI APR 17 2020  
FORECASTER: CHENARD  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

## Severe Weather Outlook

## Excessive Rainfall Outlook



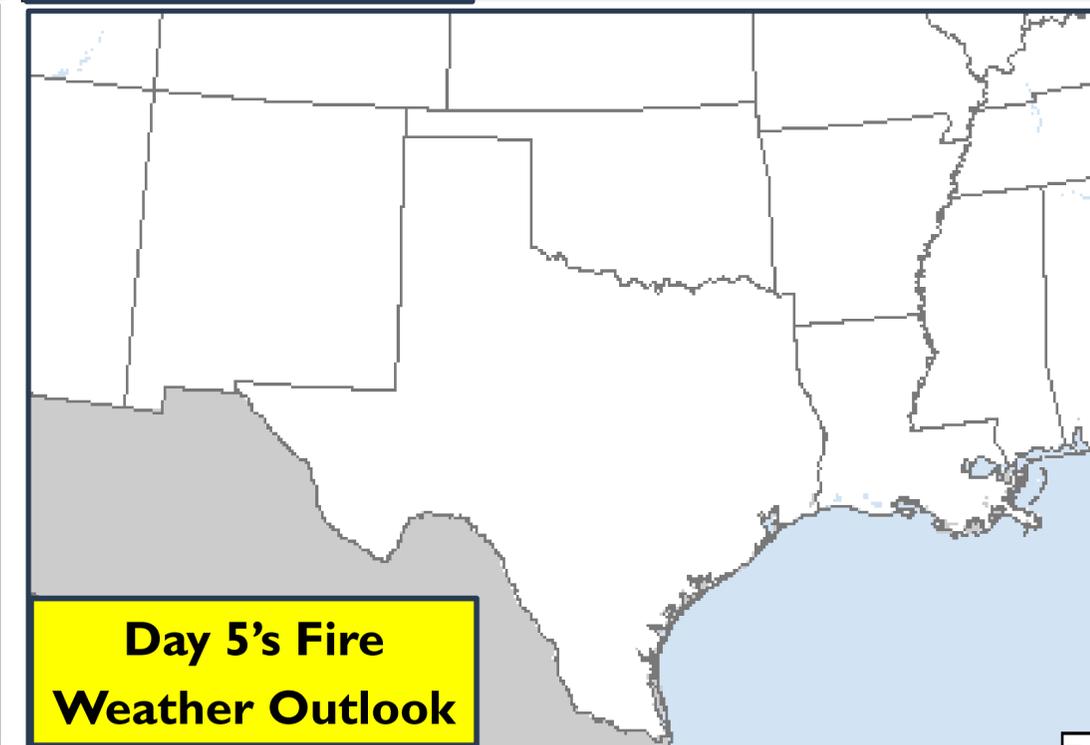
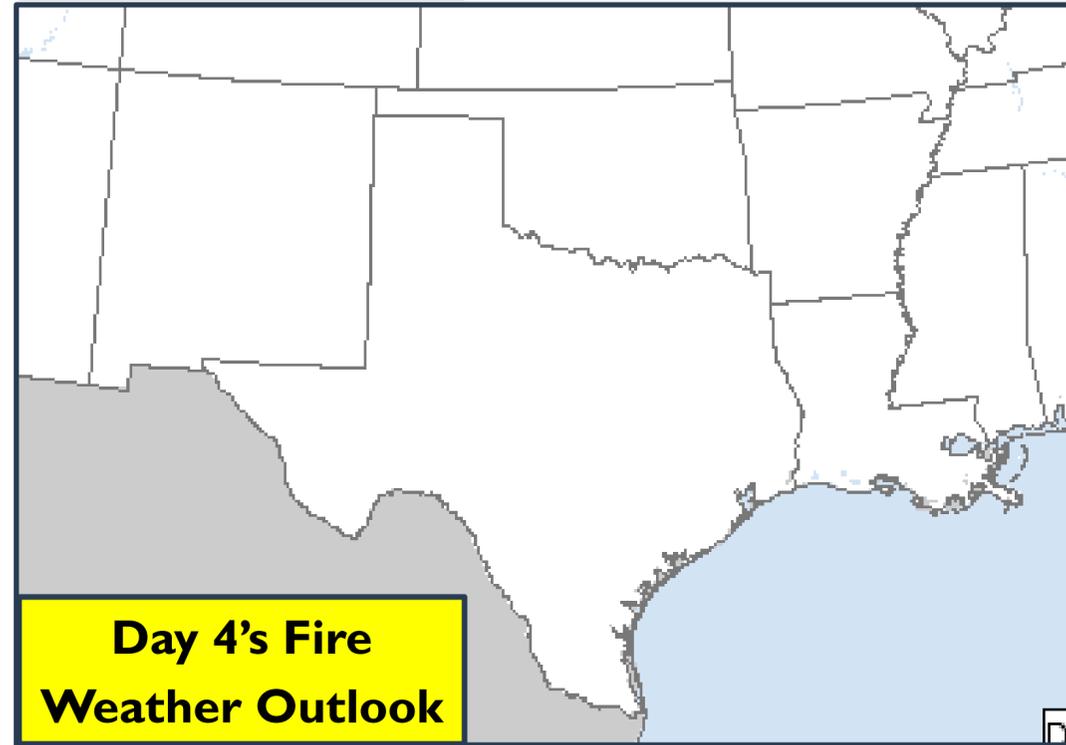
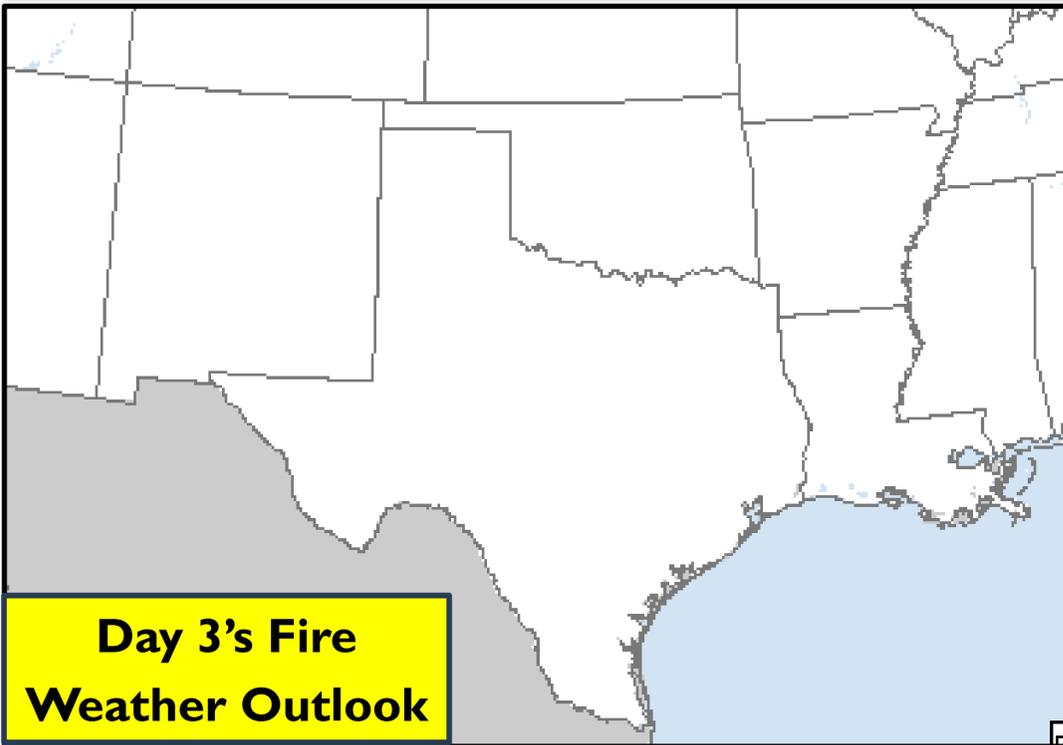
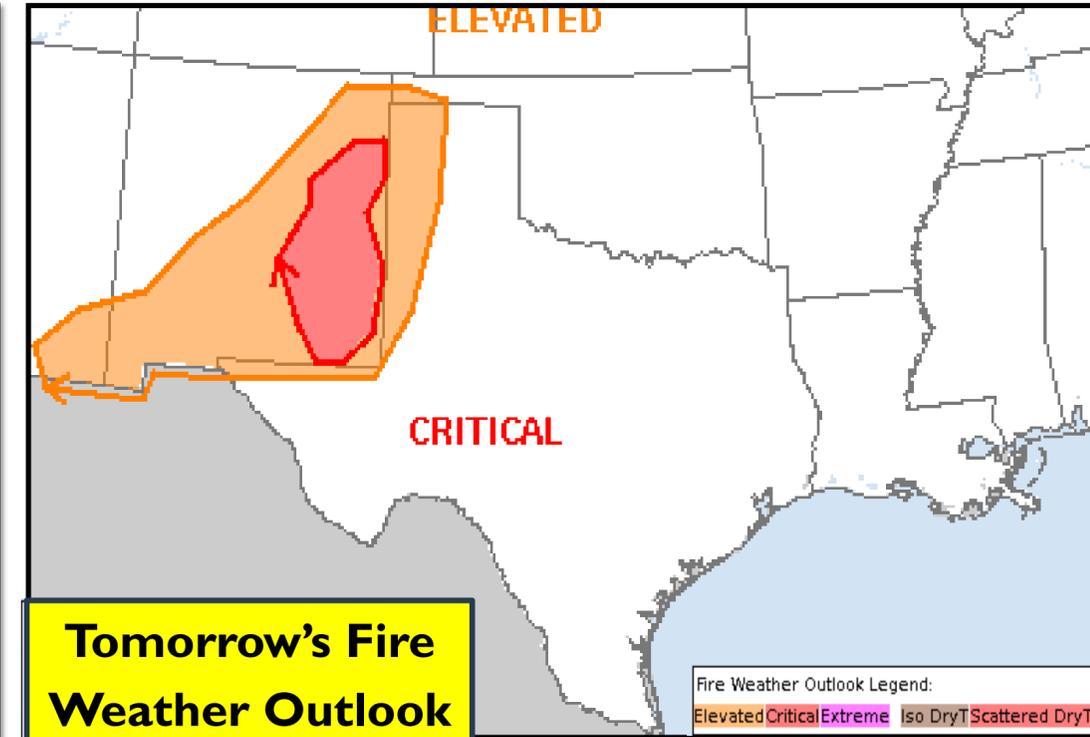
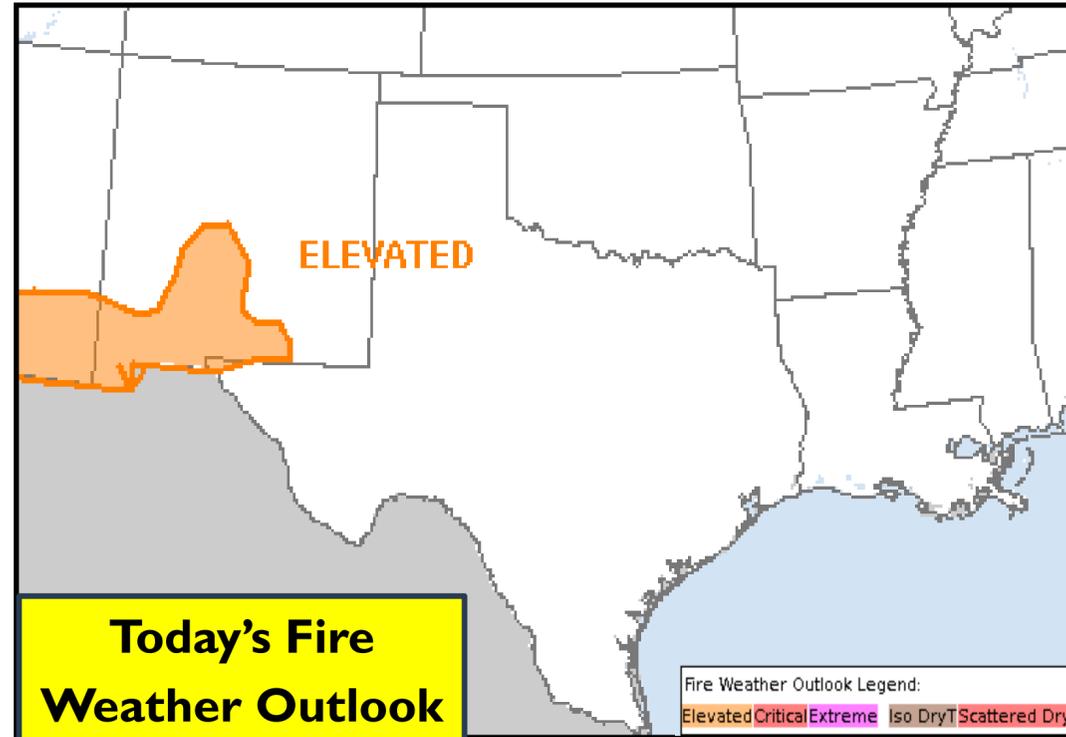
Day 1 Excessive Rainfall Outlook  
Valid 12Z Fri Apr 17 2020  
Thru 12Z Sat Apr 18 2020  
Issued: 0755Z Fri Apr 17 2020  
Forecaster: CHENARD  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC  
Risk of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles of a point  
HIGH: > 50%    SLGT: 10%-20%  
MDT: 20%-50%    MRGL: 5%-10%



# Fire Weather Outlooks



SR ROC  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER



**Note: Days 3-5 only highlight Critical areas**

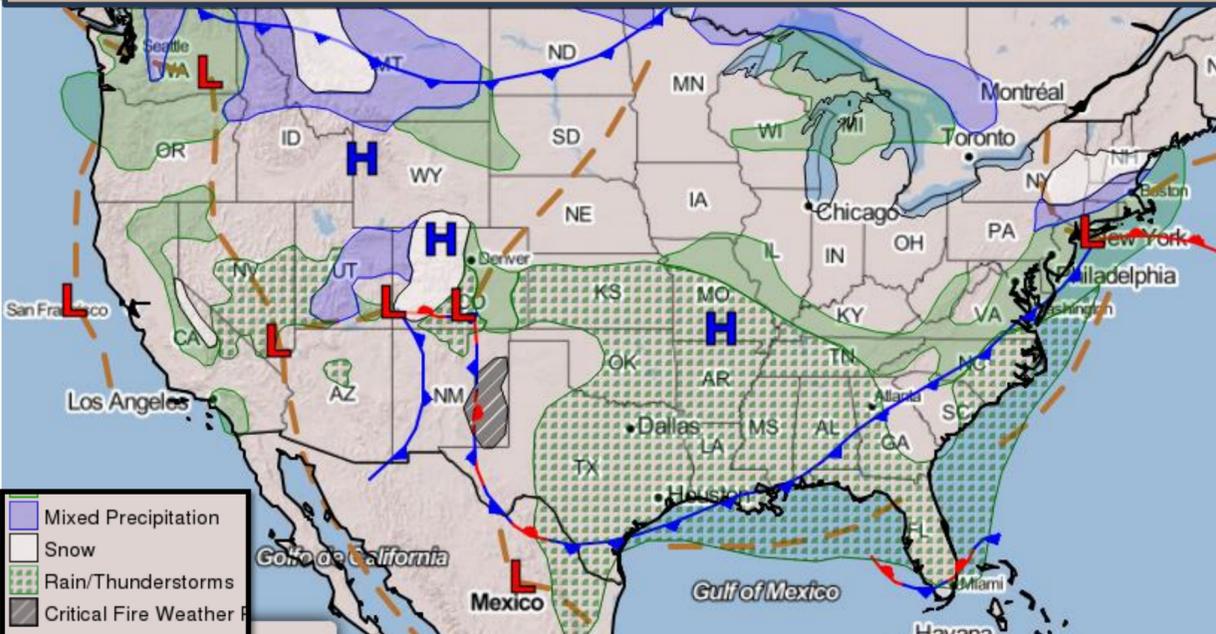
# Tomorrow's Weather



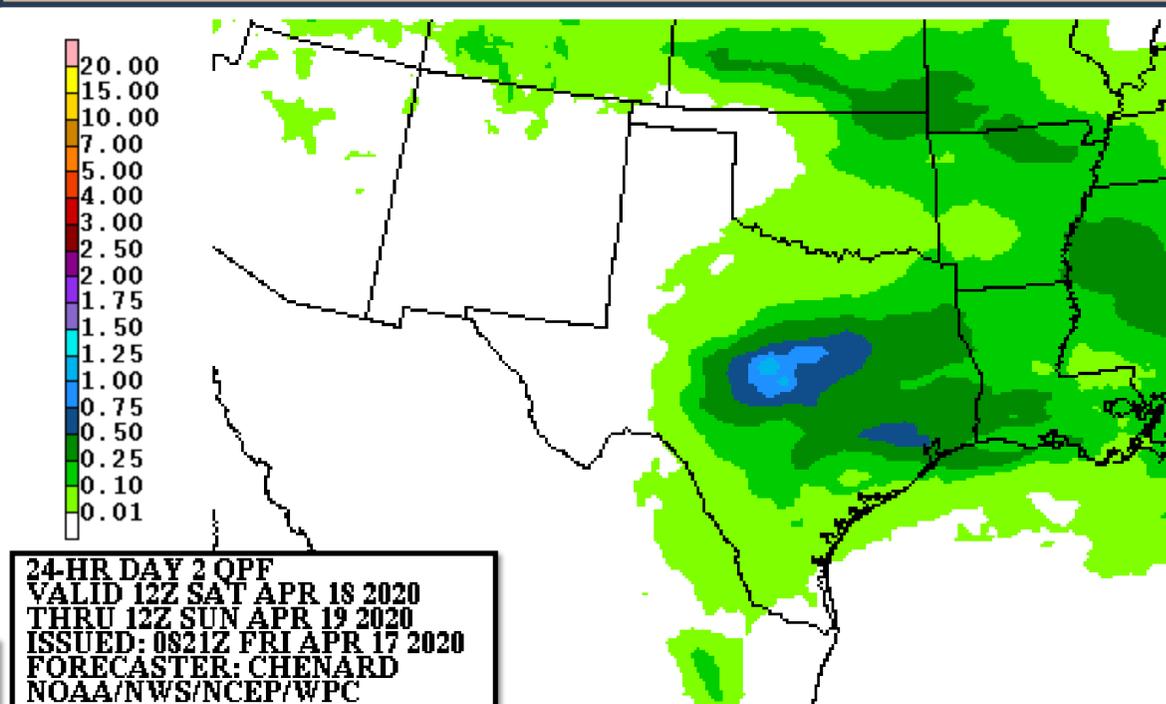
**SR ROC**  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

## Forecast Chart

## Forecast Rainfall



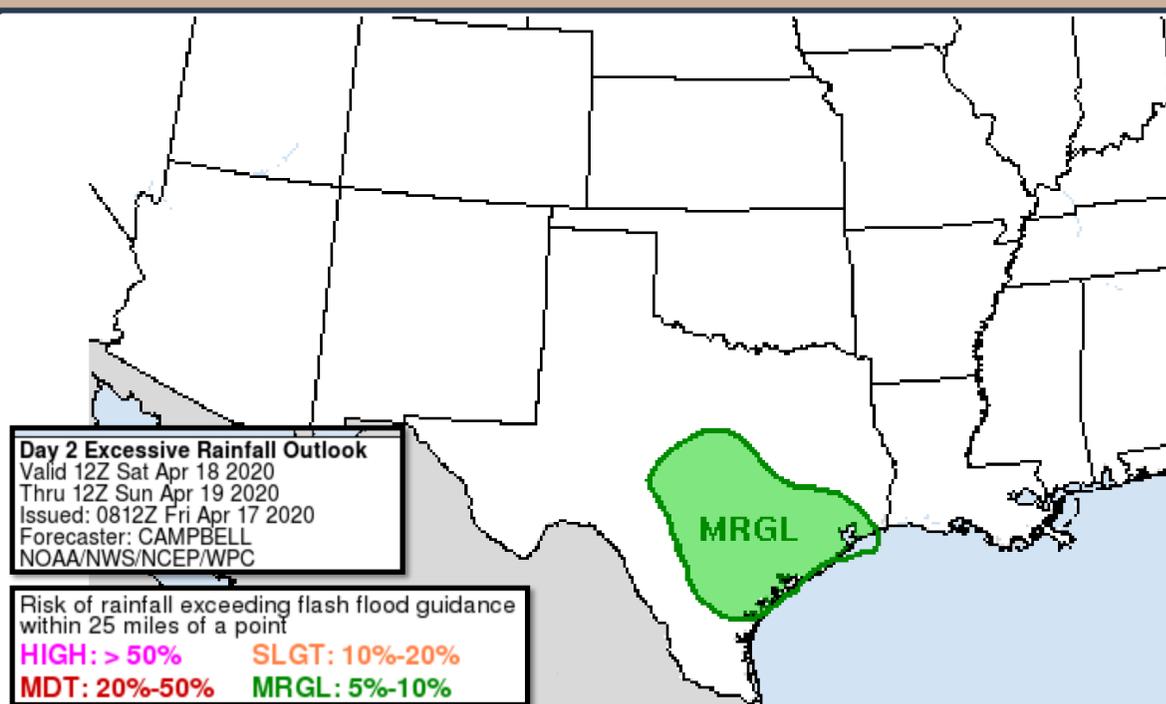
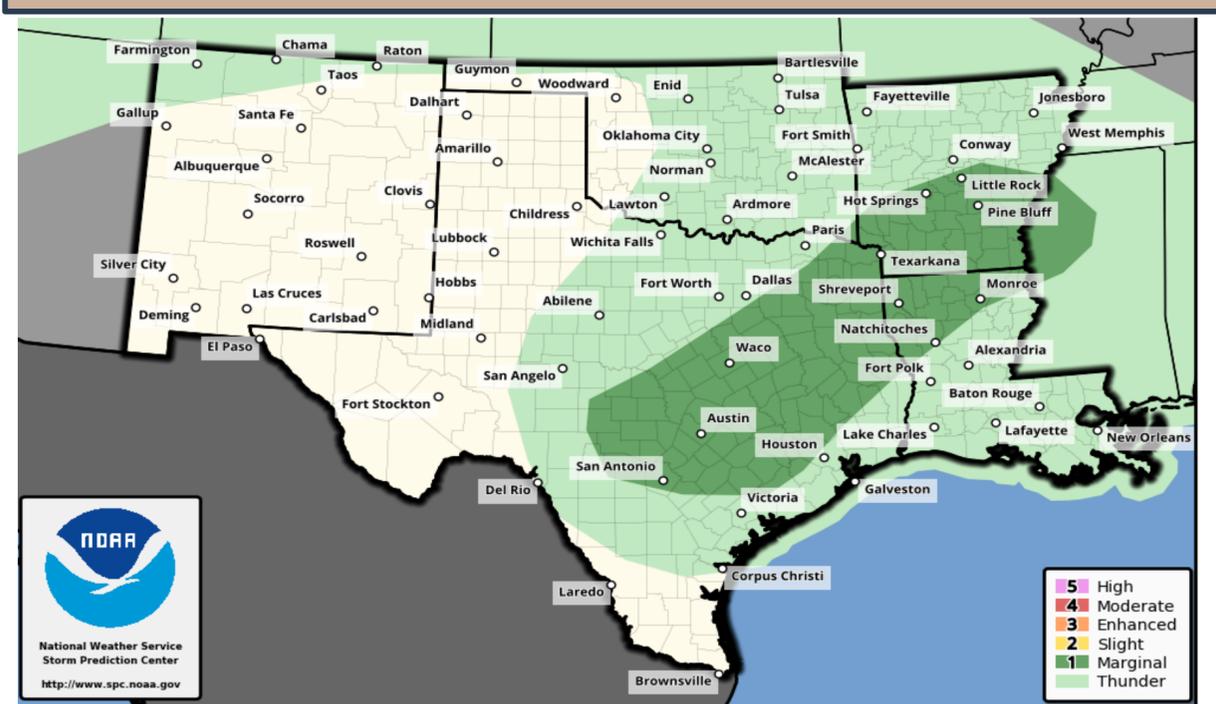
Weather Valid 8am EDT Sat Apr 18 2020 to 8am EDT Sun Apr 19 2020  
Fronts Valid 8am EDT Sat Apr 18 2020  
Issued 4:53 AM EDT Fri, Apr 17, 2020  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Orrison with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts.



**Isolated strong to severe storms late Saturday across TX/SAR/N LA. Hail is the main threat.**

## Severe Weather Outlook

## Excessive Rainfall Outlook



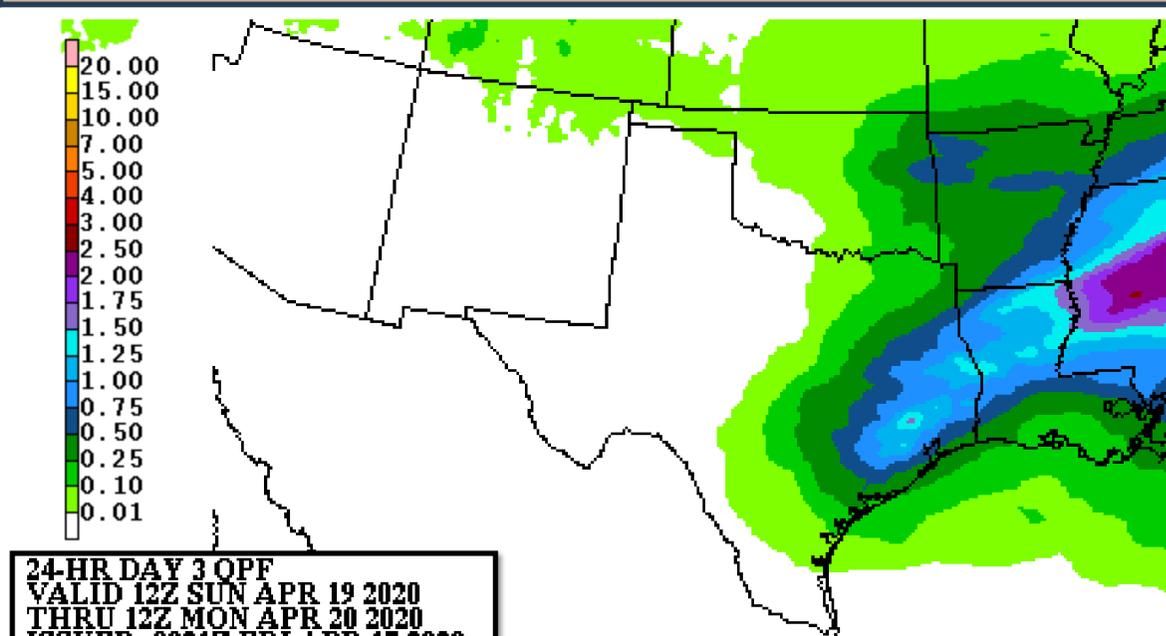
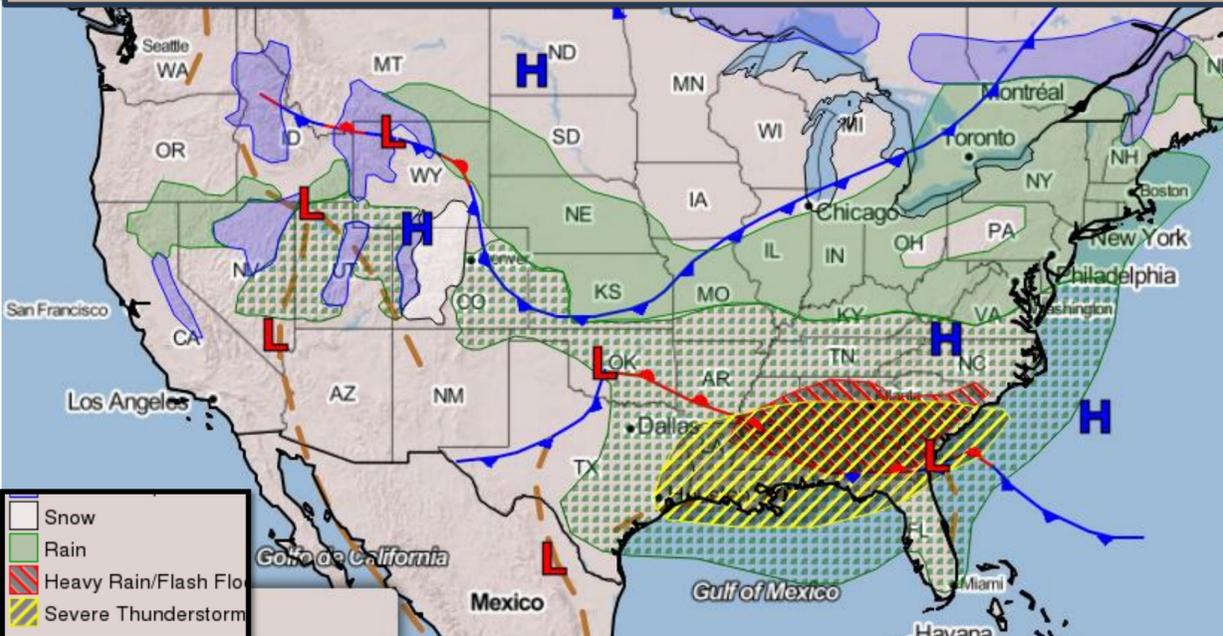
# Sunday's Weather



**SR ROC**  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

## Forecast Chart

## Forecast Rainfall



Weather Valid 8am EDT Sun Apr 19 2020 to 8am EDT Mon Apr 20 2020  
Fronts Valid 8am EDT Sun Apr 19 2020  
Issued 4:54 AM EDT Fri, Apr 17, 2020  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Orrison with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts.

**24-HR DAY 3 OPF**  
VALID 12Z SUN APR 19 2020  
THRU 12Z MON APR 20 2020  
ISSUED: 0821Z FRI APR 17 2020  
FORECASTER: CHENARD  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

**Enhanced risk area for severe storms across ETX/Central LA. Damaging winds, large hail, and tornadoes possible.**

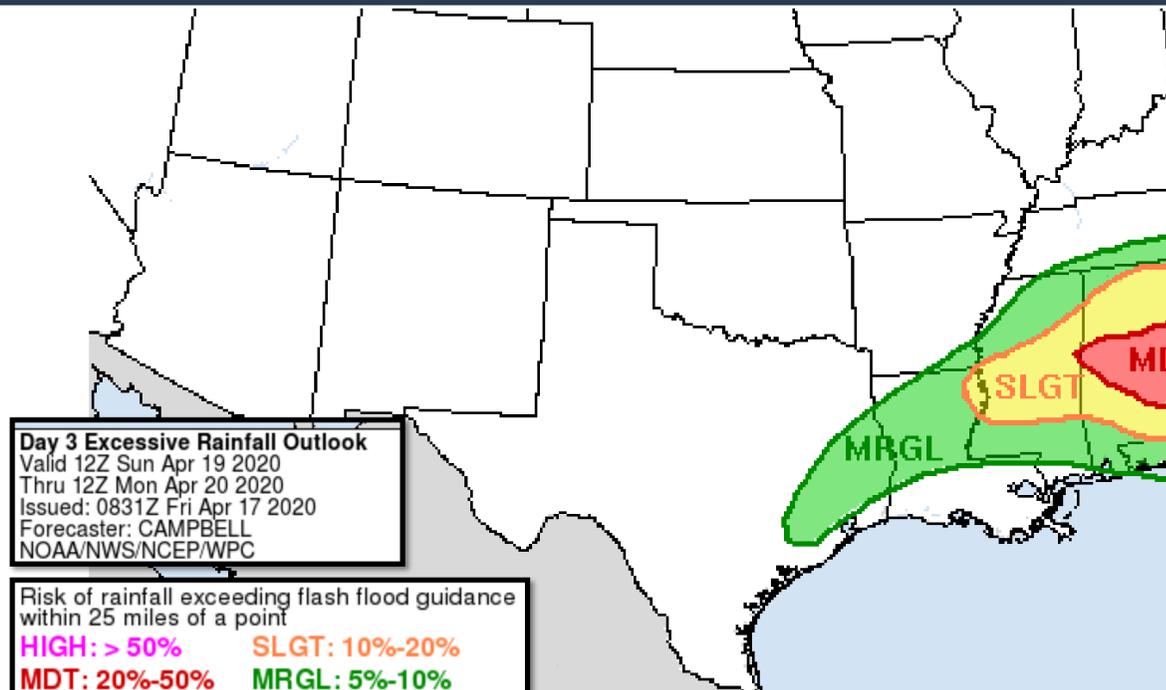
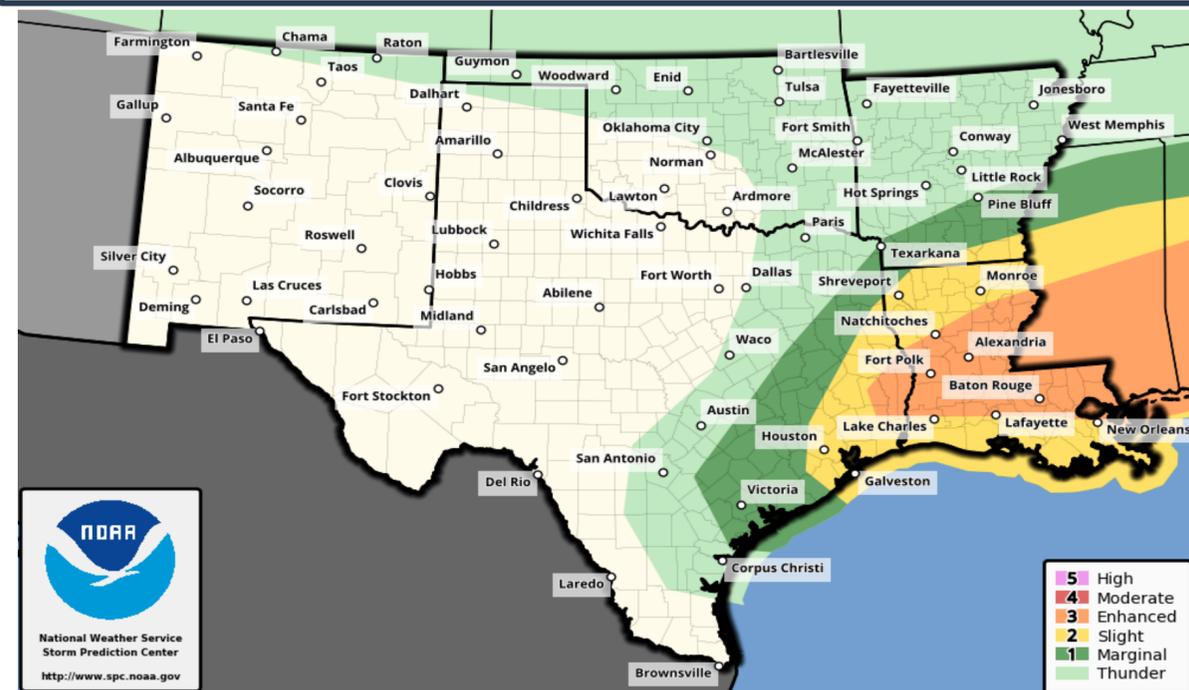
**Slight risk area for severe storms across ETX/LA into SAR.**

**Slight risk of heavy rain and flash flooding over NE LA.**

**Isolated heavy rain and flash flooding across E & SETX/LA/SE AR.**

## Severe Weather Outlook

## Excessive Rainfall Outlook



**Day 3 Excessive Rainfall Outlook**  
Valid 12Z Sun Apr 19 2020  
Thru 12Z Mon Apr 20 2020  
Issued: 0831Z Fri Apr 17 2020  
Forecaster: CAMPBELL  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Risk of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles of a point  
**HIGH: > 50%**    **SLGT: 10%-20%**  
**MDT: 20%-50%**    **MRGL: 5%-10%**



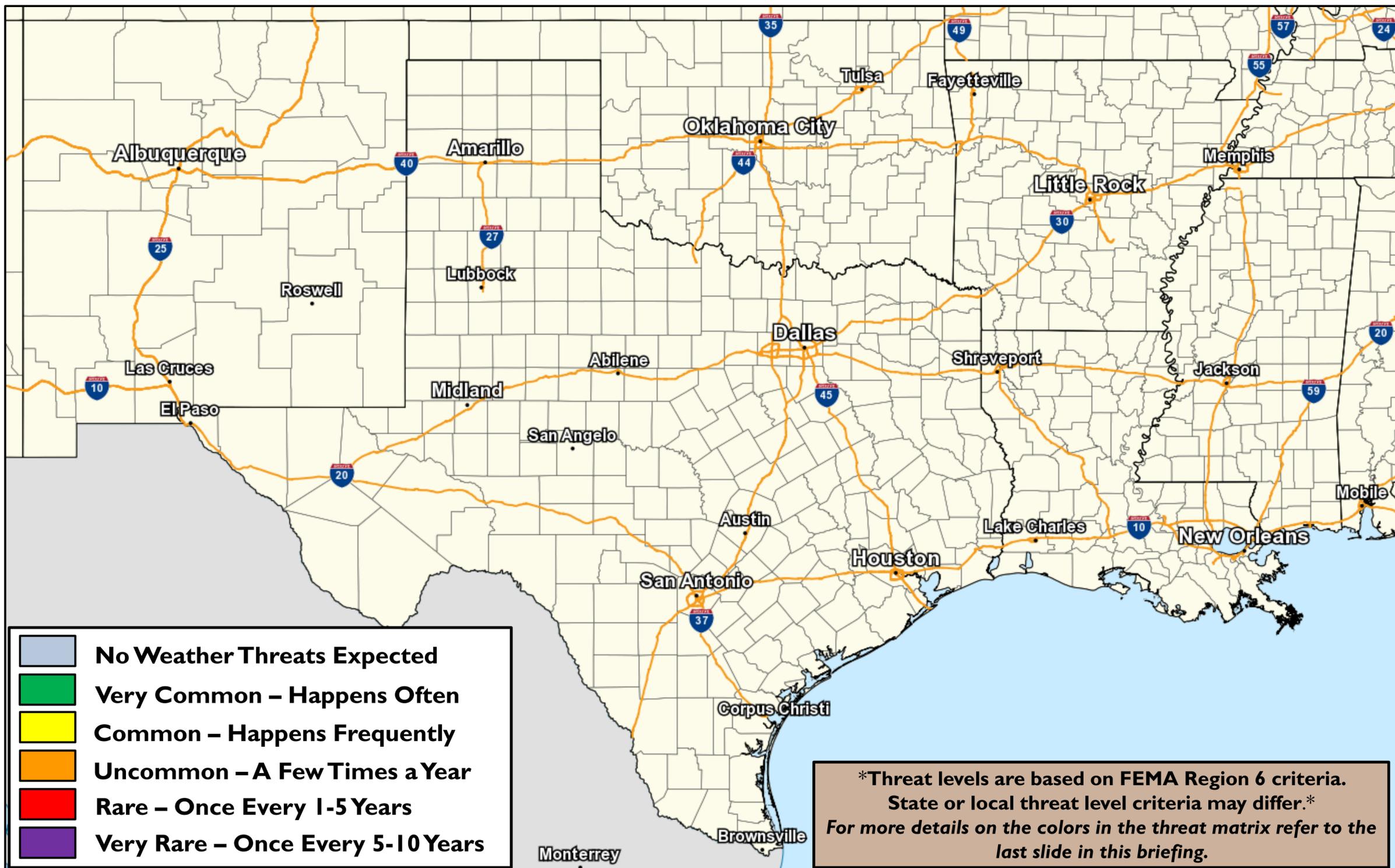
# Days 4-5 Weather Hazards

## Monday - Tuesday



SR ROC  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

No significant weather impacts expected.

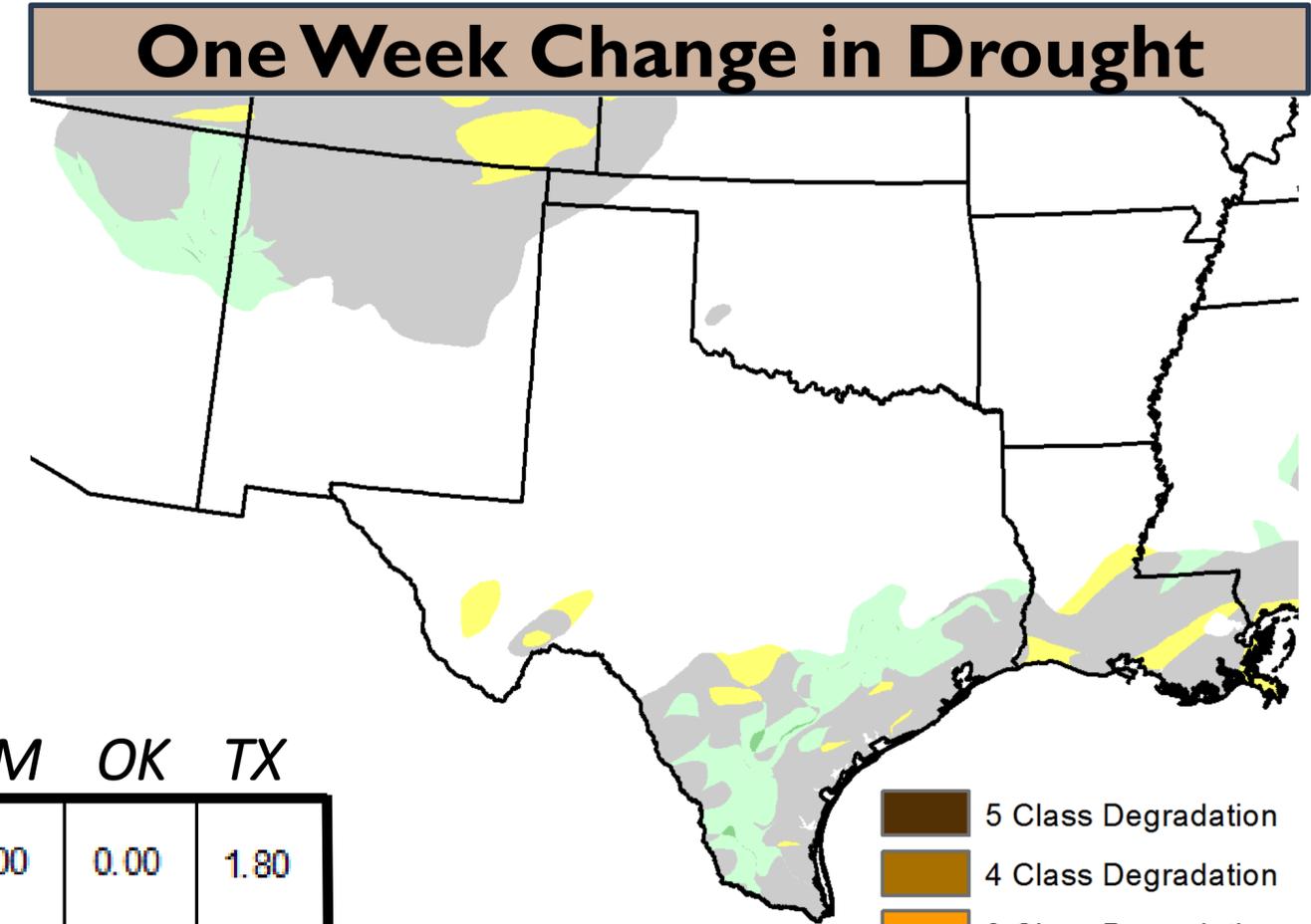
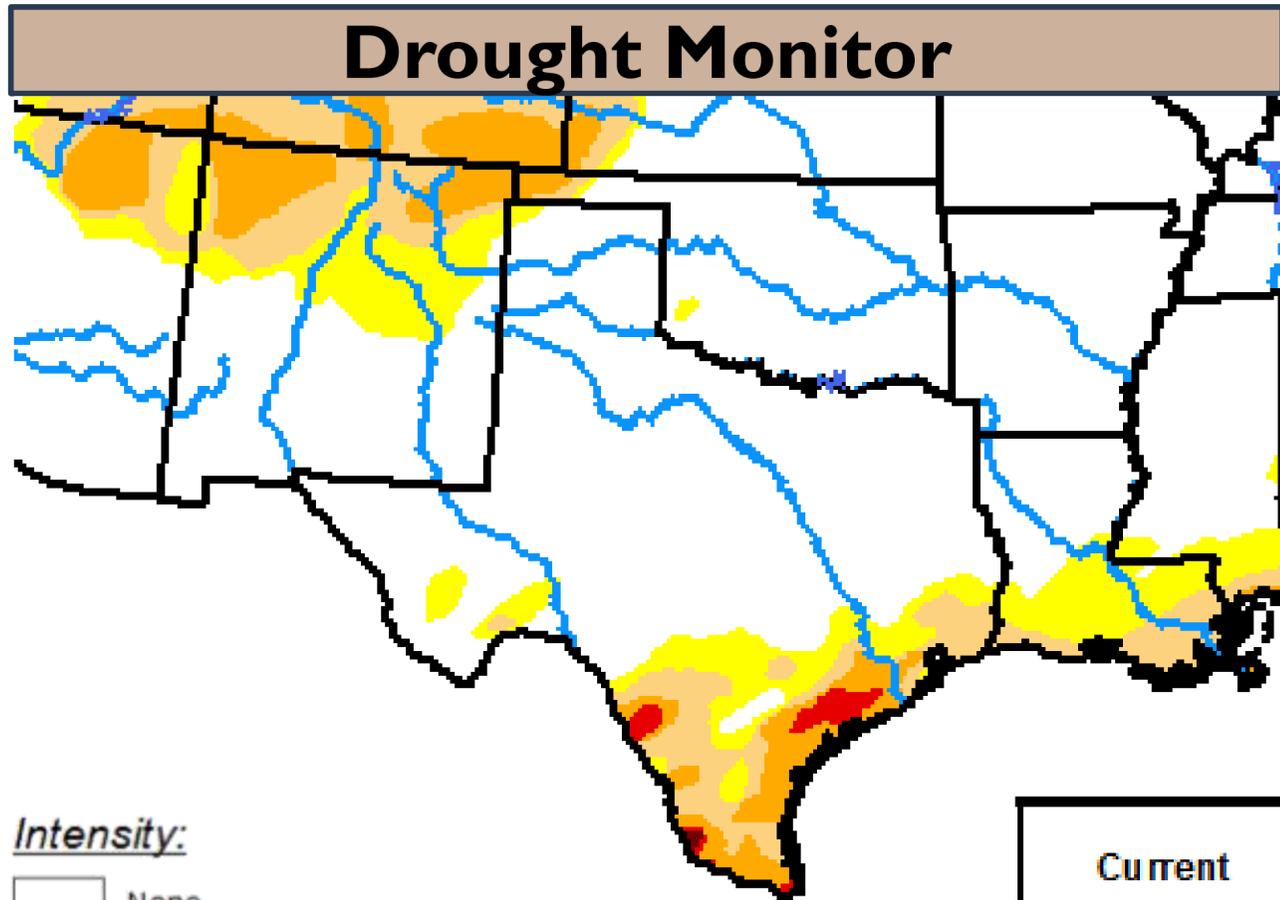


# Drought Monitor (Released Apr 16, 2020)



**SR ROC**  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

Data valid as of 8 am ET on Tuesday, April 14, 2020



**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.*

|  | AR   | LA   | NM   | OK   | TX   |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Current</b>                           | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.80 |
| <b>Last Week</b><br><i>04-07-2020</i>    | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.50 |
| <b>3 Months Ago</b><br><i>01-14-2020</i> | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1.29 |
| <b>One Year Ago</b><br><i>04-16-2019</i> | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

**Drought Conditions (Percent Area)**

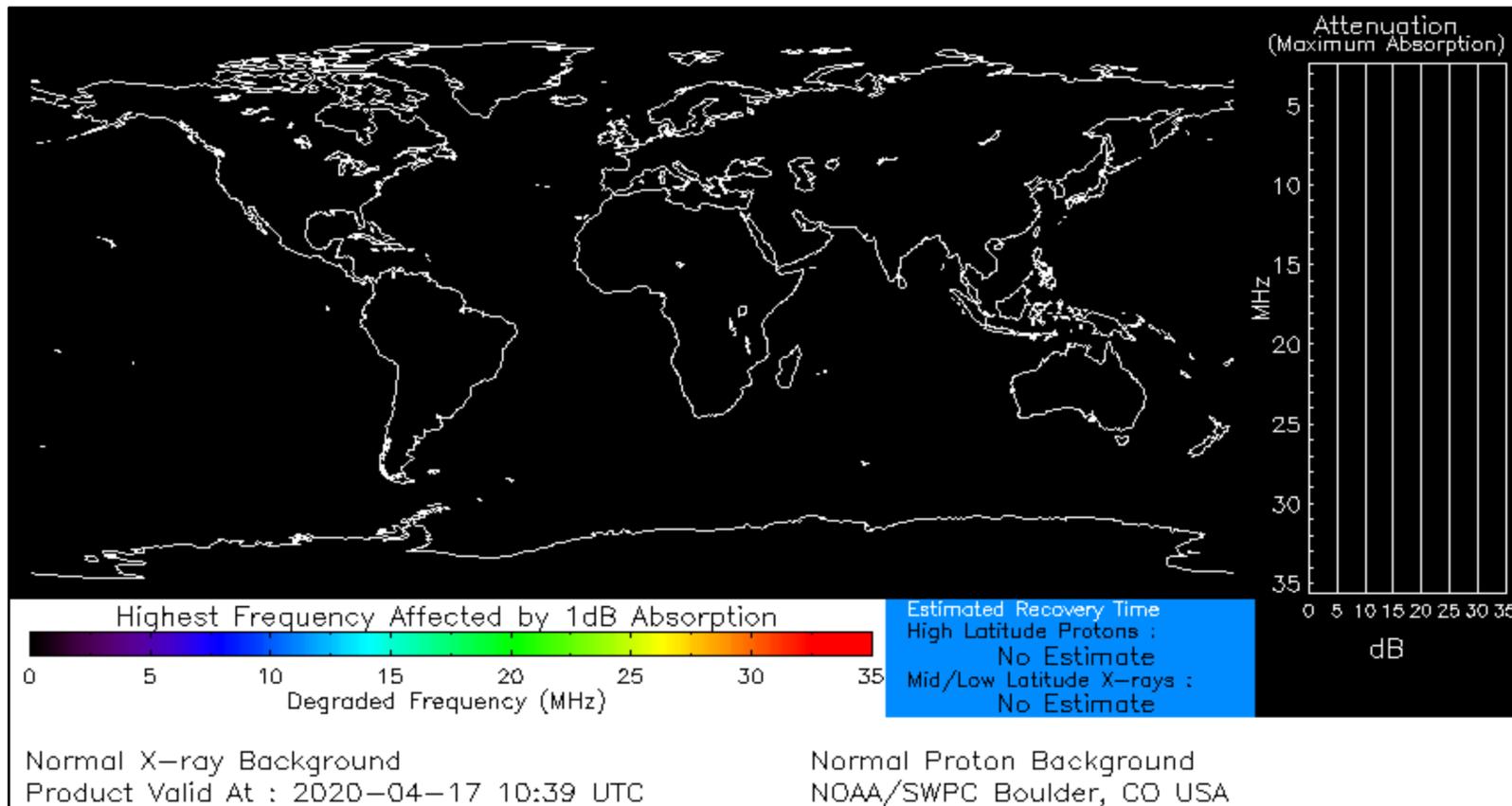
**D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)**

# Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



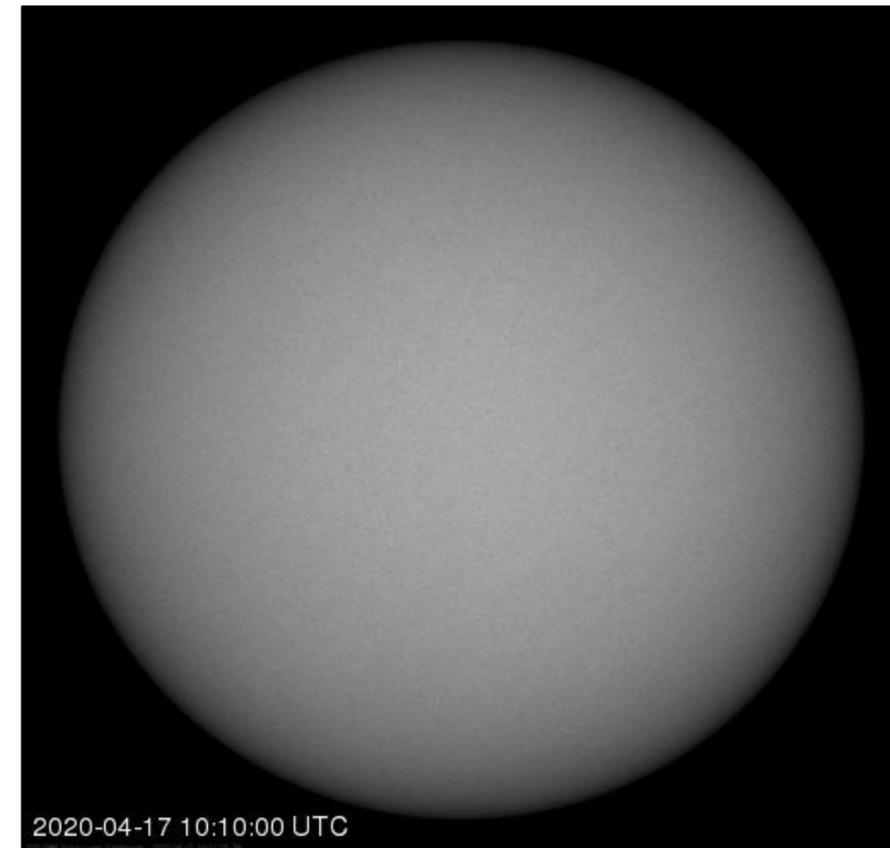
**SR ROC**  
REGIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER

|                                      | Friday                | Saturday              | Sunday                |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Geomagnetic Storms</b>            | Quiet<br>(Max Kp = 2) | Quiet<br>(Max Kp = 2) | Quiet<br>(Max Kp = 2) |
| <b>Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)</b> | 1%                    | 1%                    | 1%                    |
| <b>Radio Blackout (R1-R2)</b>        | 1%                    | 1%                    | 1%                    |
| <b>Radio Blackout (R3-R5)</b>        | 1%                    | 1%                    | 1%                    |



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)





**For more information, please contact:**

**National Weather Service**  
**Southern Region Headquarters**  
**Regional Operations Center**  
**Fort Worth, TX**

**Phone: (682) 703-3747**

**E-mail: [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov)**

**Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh>**



## Weather "Threat" Matrix

| Color  | Definition   | Criteria  | Example(s)   |
|--------|--|---|--|
| Green  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Very Common</b></p> <p>Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property<br/>Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines</p>   | <p>Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC<br/>Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas<br/>Tropical: None<br/>Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees</li> <li>Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX</li> </ul>   |
| Yellow | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently</b></p> <p>Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property<br/>Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life</p>  | <p>Severe: Slight Risk from SPC<br/>Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas<br/>Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline<br/>Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible</li> <li>Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail</li> </ul>   |
| Orange | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Uncommon – A Few Times a Year</b></p> <p>Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable<br/>Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life</p>                                     | <p>Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC<br/>Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas<br/>Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline<br/>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"> <li>A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely</li> <li>Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail</li> <li>Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected</li> </ul> |
| Red    | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rare – Once every 1-5 Years</b></p> <p>Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed<br/>Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life</p>                            | <p>Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC<br/>Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations)<br/>Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline<br/>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"> <li>A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days</li> <li>Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail</li> <li>Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue</li> </ul>                                    |
| Purple | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years</b></p> <p>Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed<br/>Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life</p> | <p>Severe: High Risk from SPC<br/>Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations)<br/>Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline<br/>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"> <li>A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow</li> <li>Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms</li> </ul>  |

**Criteria for the color codes in this briefing is to the left, please provide any feedback to [sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov).**