FEMA

Prepared by

Brian Hoeth

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Thursday October 22, 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.

Summary of the Upcoming Week

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- **Critical fire weather conditions across NE NM and the TX/OK Panhandles today.**
- **Marginal risk of severe storms for NE OK & W TX today.**
- **Winter travel impacts may develop in the high terrain and eastern NM beginning Sunday, spreading into the TX/OK Panhandles by Monday.**
- **No impacts to FEMA 6 from Hurricane Epsilon and the area in the Caribbean.**

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Oct 22, 2020 - Oct 26, 2020

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DAY / THREAT	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Severe Storms	NE OK W TX				
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	NE NM TX/OK Panhandles				
Tropical Winds / Surge					
Winter Weather				NM	NM TX/OK Panhandles
River Flooding	SW LA	SW LA	SW LA	SW LA	SW LA

- 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.

Tropical Weather Outlook – Atlantic/Gulf

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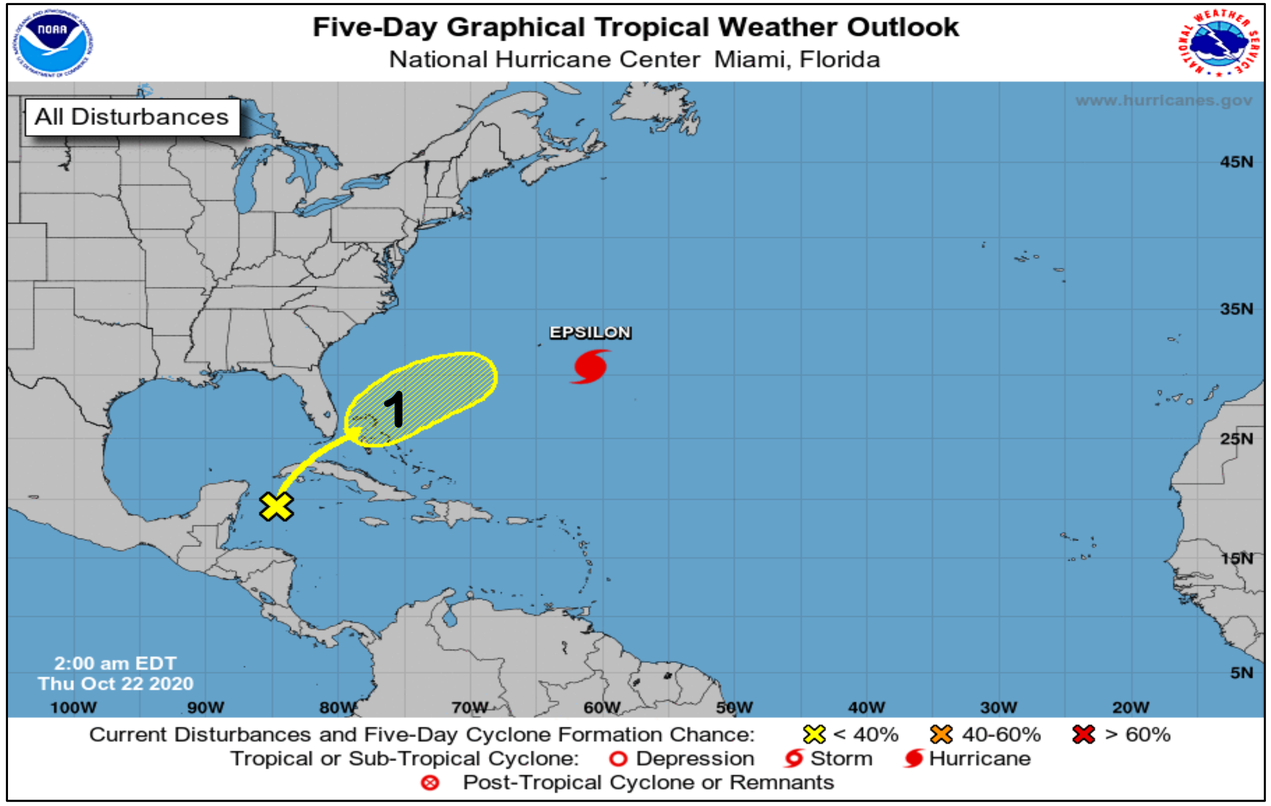
See next slide for more information

Areas of Possible Development

Area	Chance of Development	Potential Impacts to FEMA 6
1	Low	None.

Active Tropical Cyclones

Storm	Potential Impacts to FEMA 6
Epsilon	None.



See http://www.hurricanes.gov for the latest on the tropics or any active storms

Epsilon

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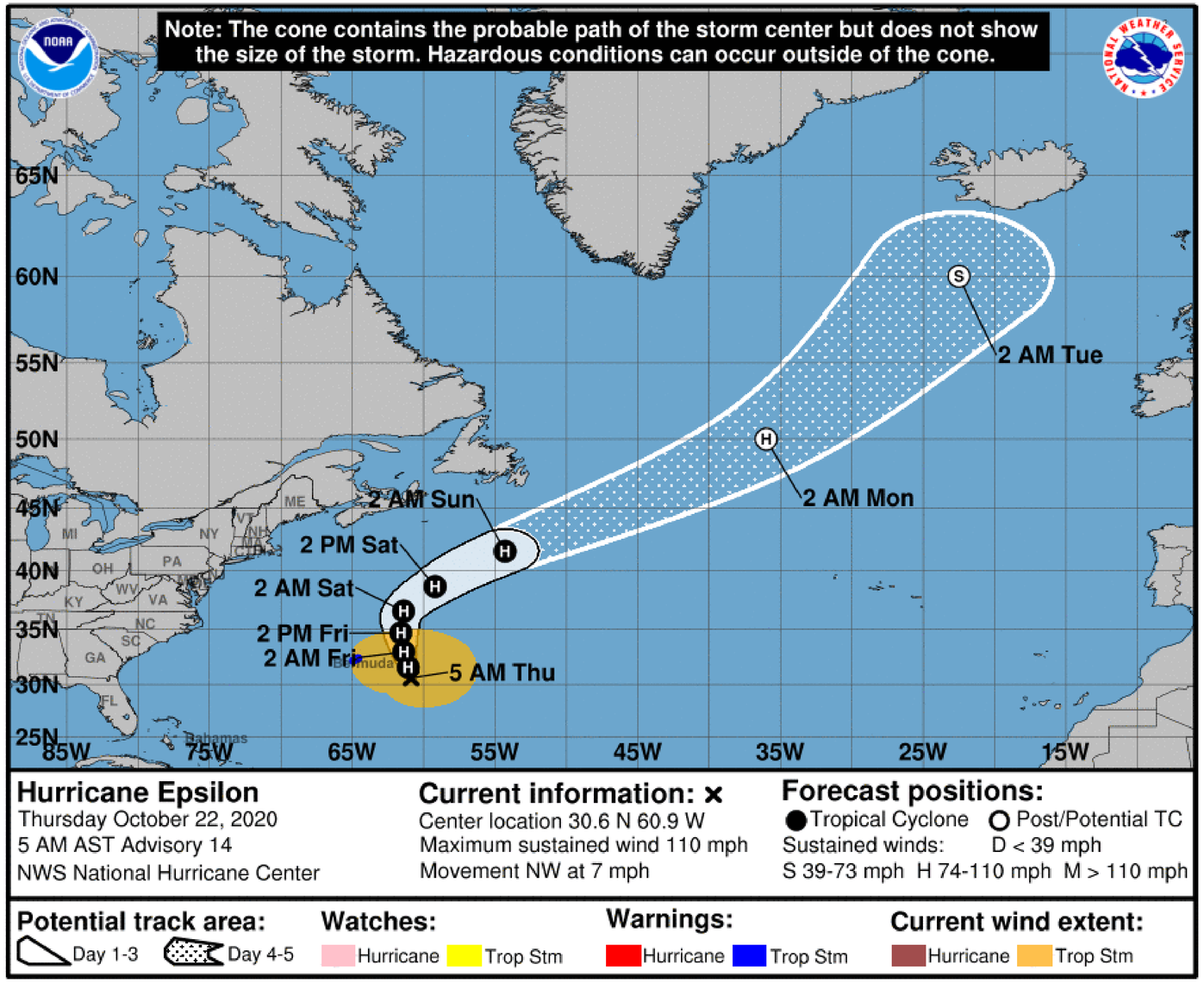

Hurricane Epsilon will move slowly north-northwest over the central Atlantic the next 2 days and then turn eastward and move rapidly out to sea this weekend.
No impacts to FEMA 6.

5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

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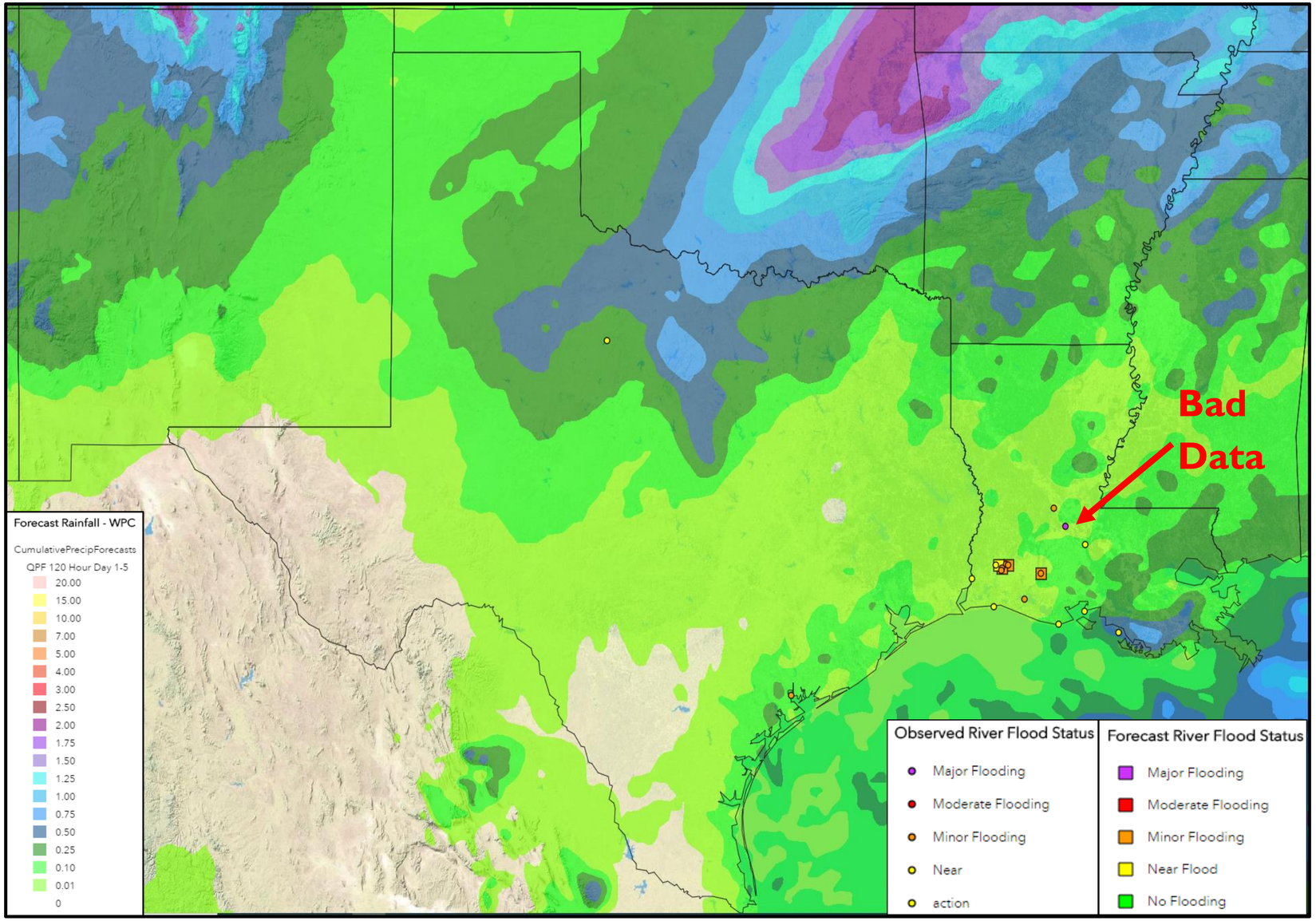
Note: Even though the image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1-2 days of rainfall



Minor river flooding continues across SW LA.

- **The Calcasieu River will continue to slowly recede. White Oak Park (east of Lake Charles) will remain in minor flood stage through the end of the week. Impacts: Water over lowest portions of Goos Ferry Road. Cars should be moved to higher ground.**
- **The Mermentau River at Mermentau will remain in minor flood through the end of the week. Impacts: Minor lowland flooding near the river.**

Today's Weather

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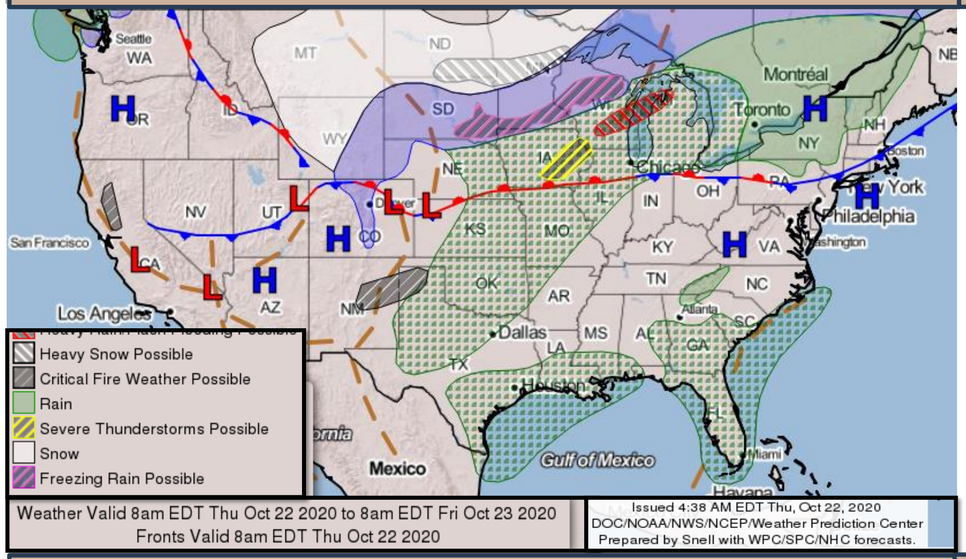
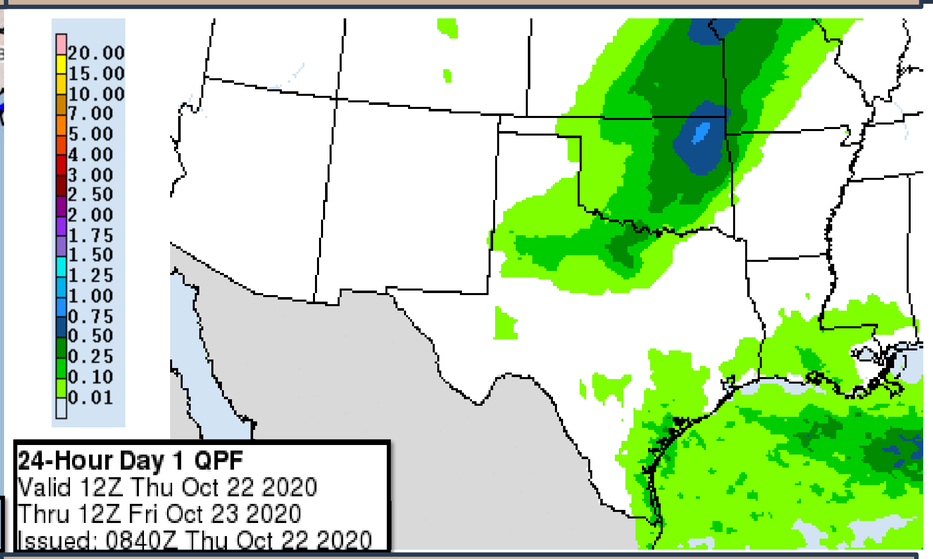
Forecast Chart

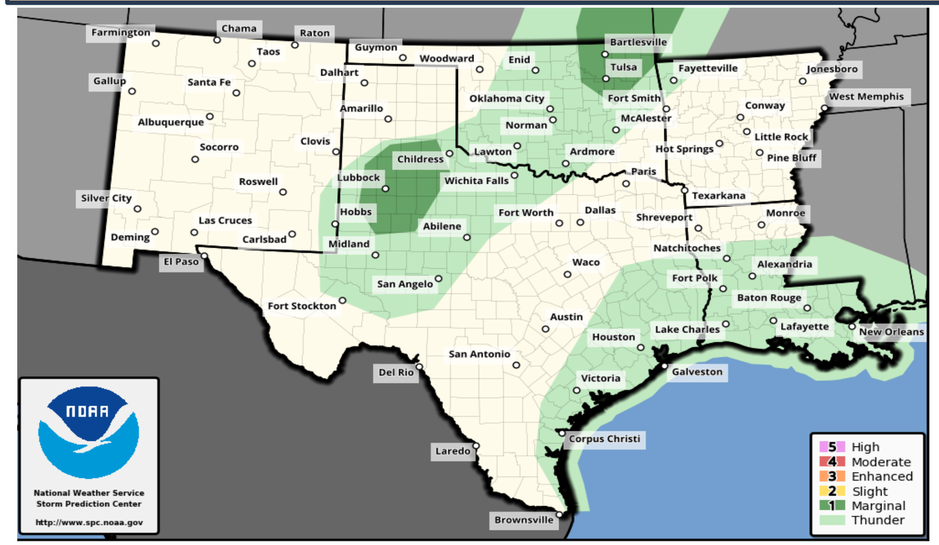


Forecast Rainfall

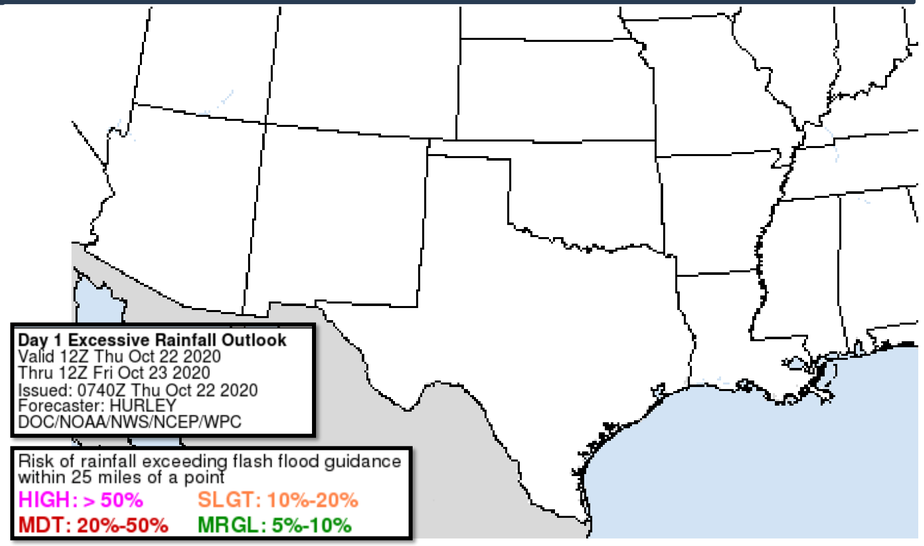


A few strong to severe storms capable of producing mainly hail and strong wind gusts this afternoon and evening for NE OK and portions of W TX.

Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlook



Fire Weather Outlooks

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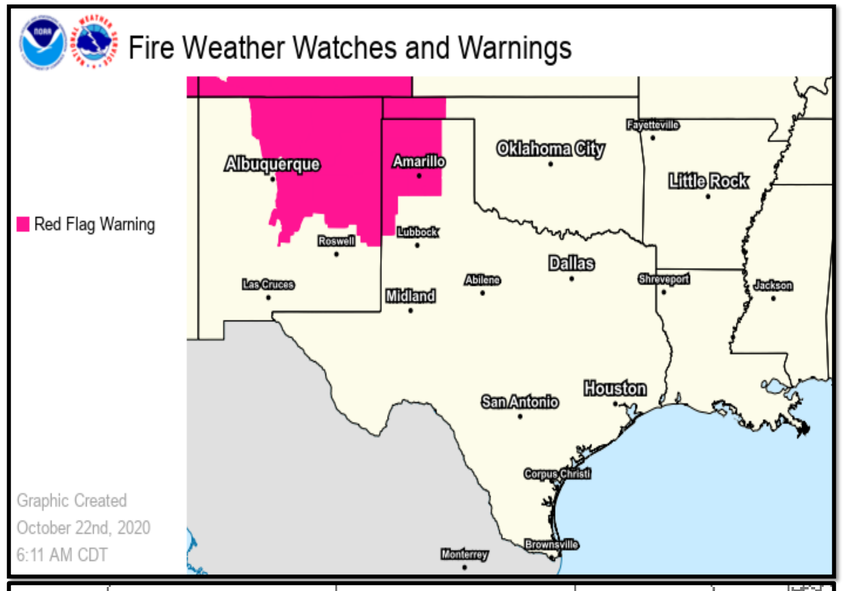
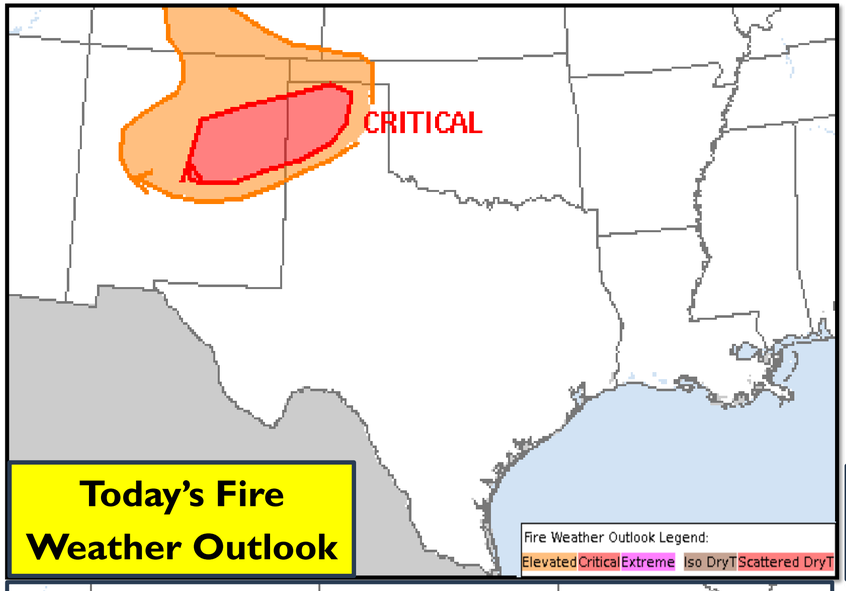
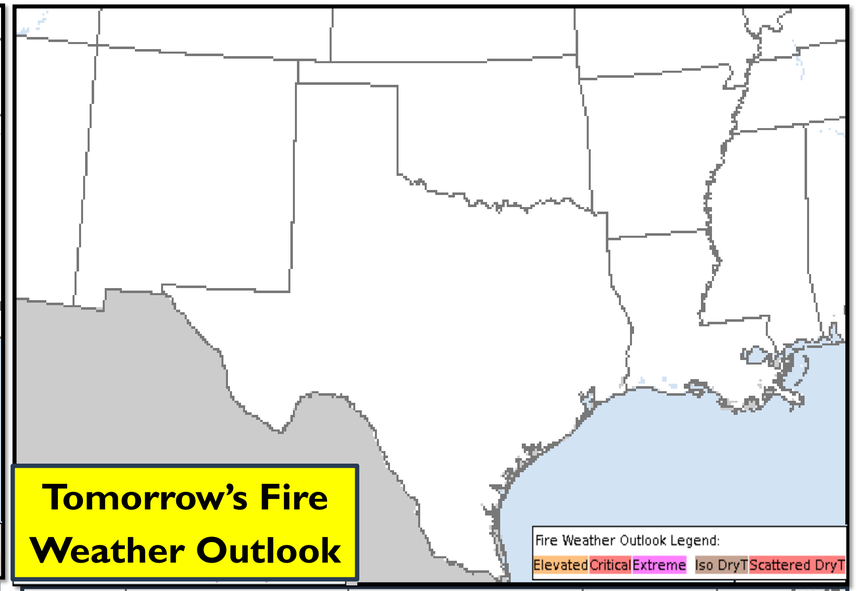
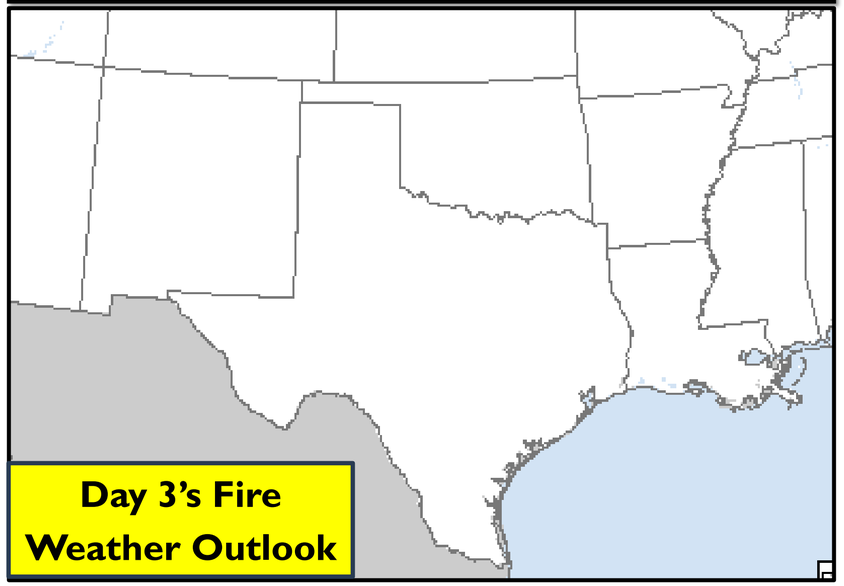




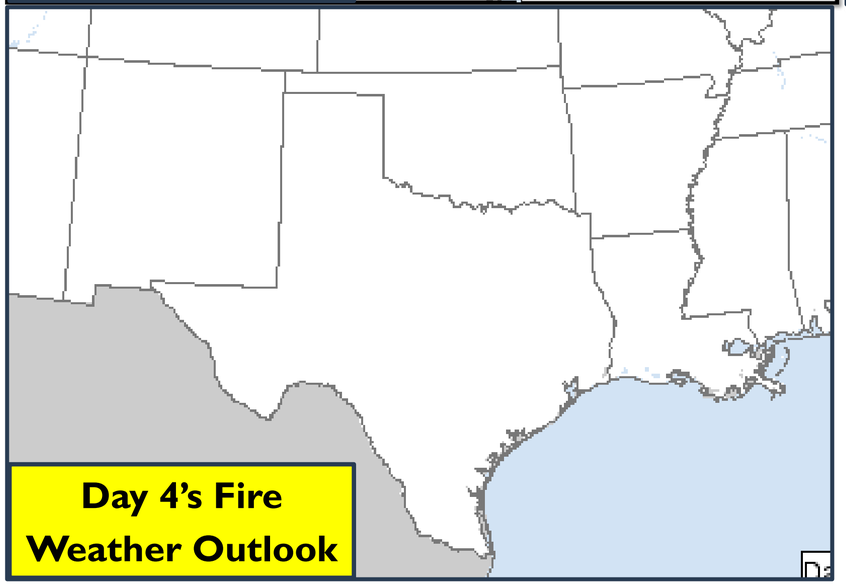
Today's Fire Weather Outlook



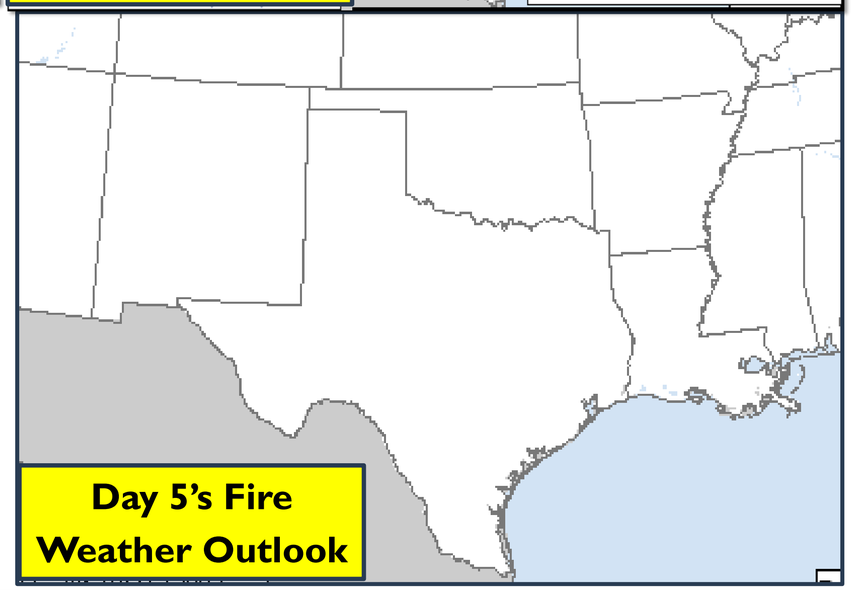
Tomorrow's Fire Weather Outlook



Day 3's Fire Weather Outlook



Day 4's Fire Weather Outlook



Day 5's Fire Weather Outlook

<u>Note</u>: Days 3-5 only highlight Critical areas

Tomorrow's Weather

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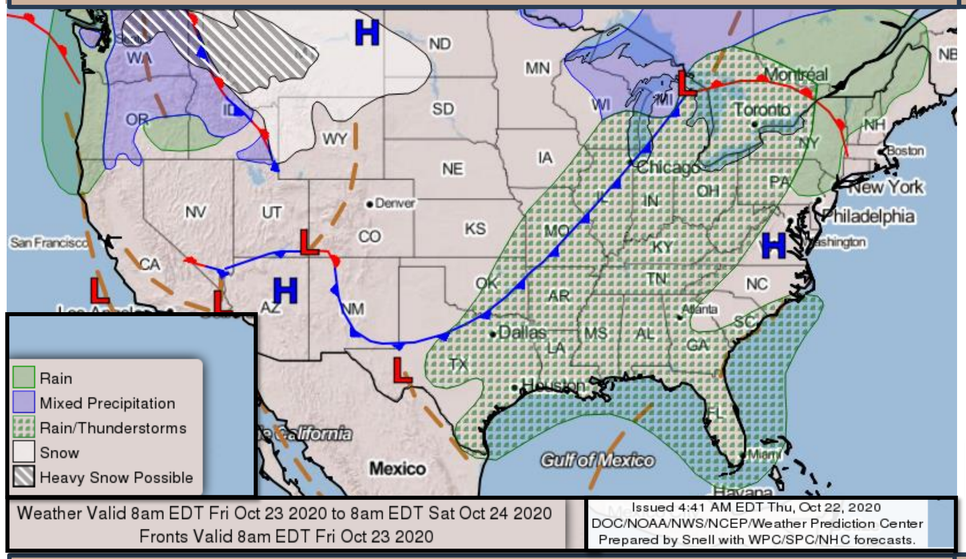
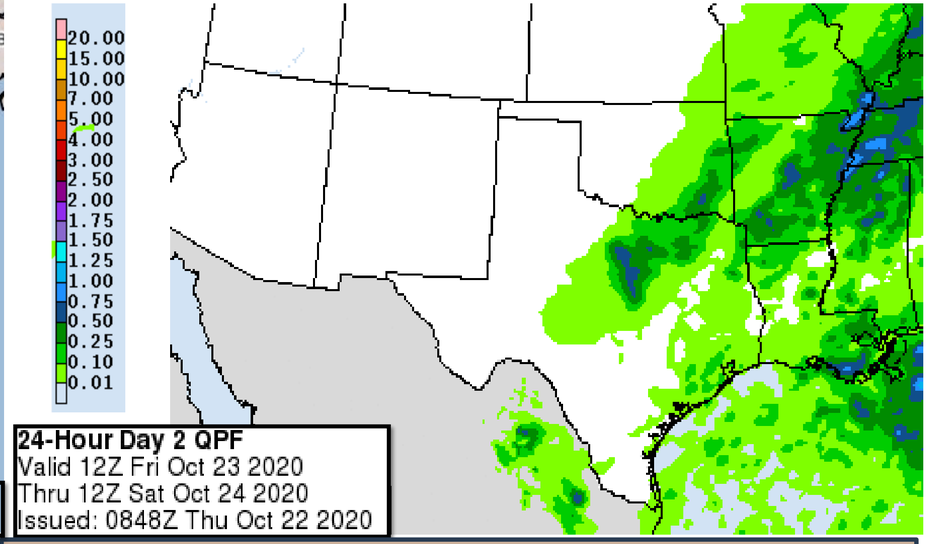
Forecast Chart

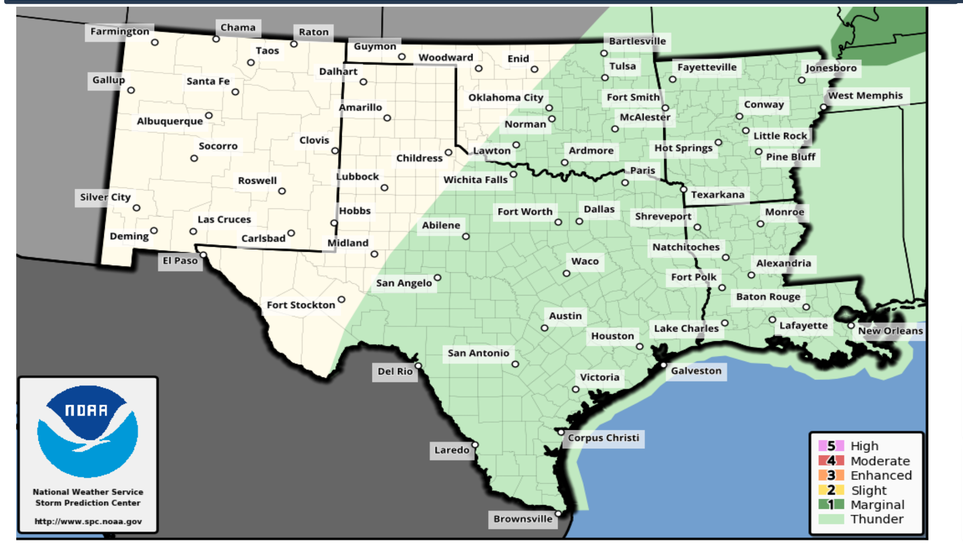


Forecast Rainfall

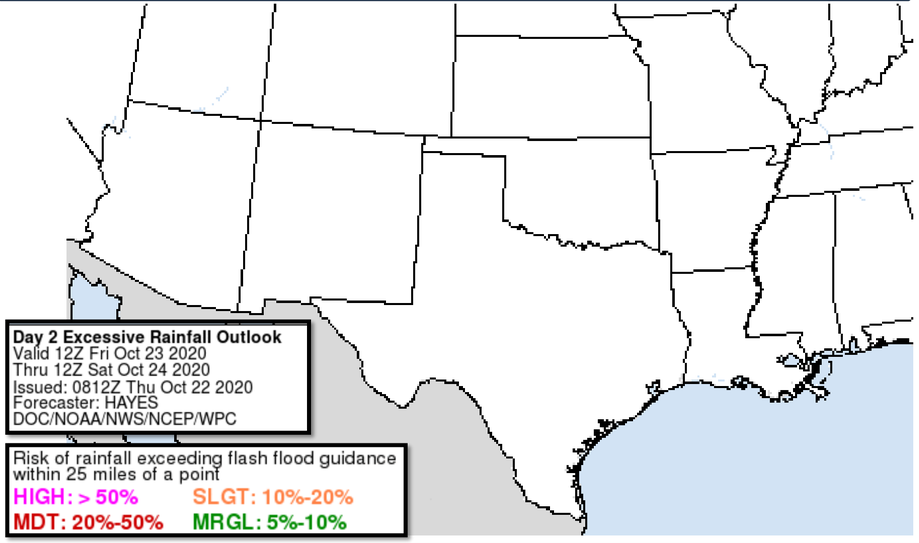


No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlook



Saturday's Weather

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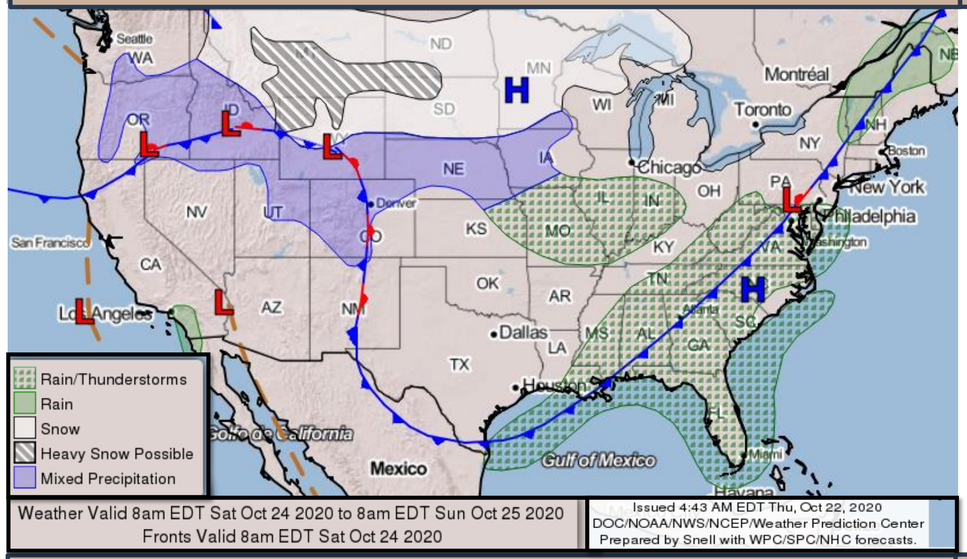
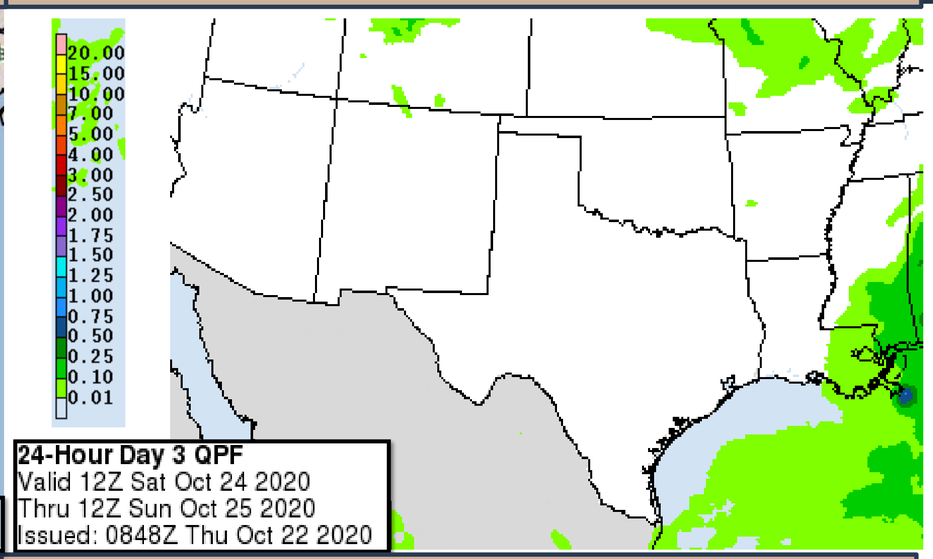
Forecast Chart



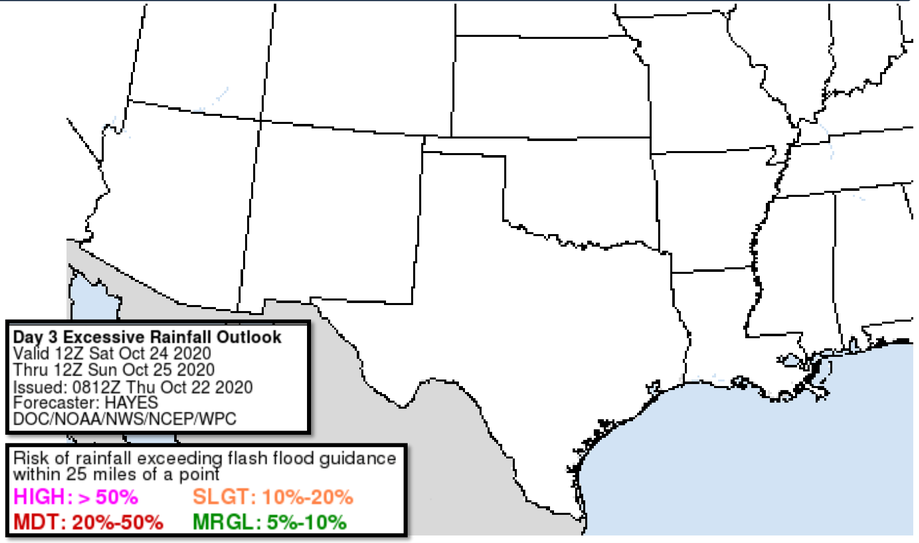
Forecast Rainfall



No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook

Excessive Rainfall Outlook



Days 4-5 Weather Hazards

Sunday - Monday

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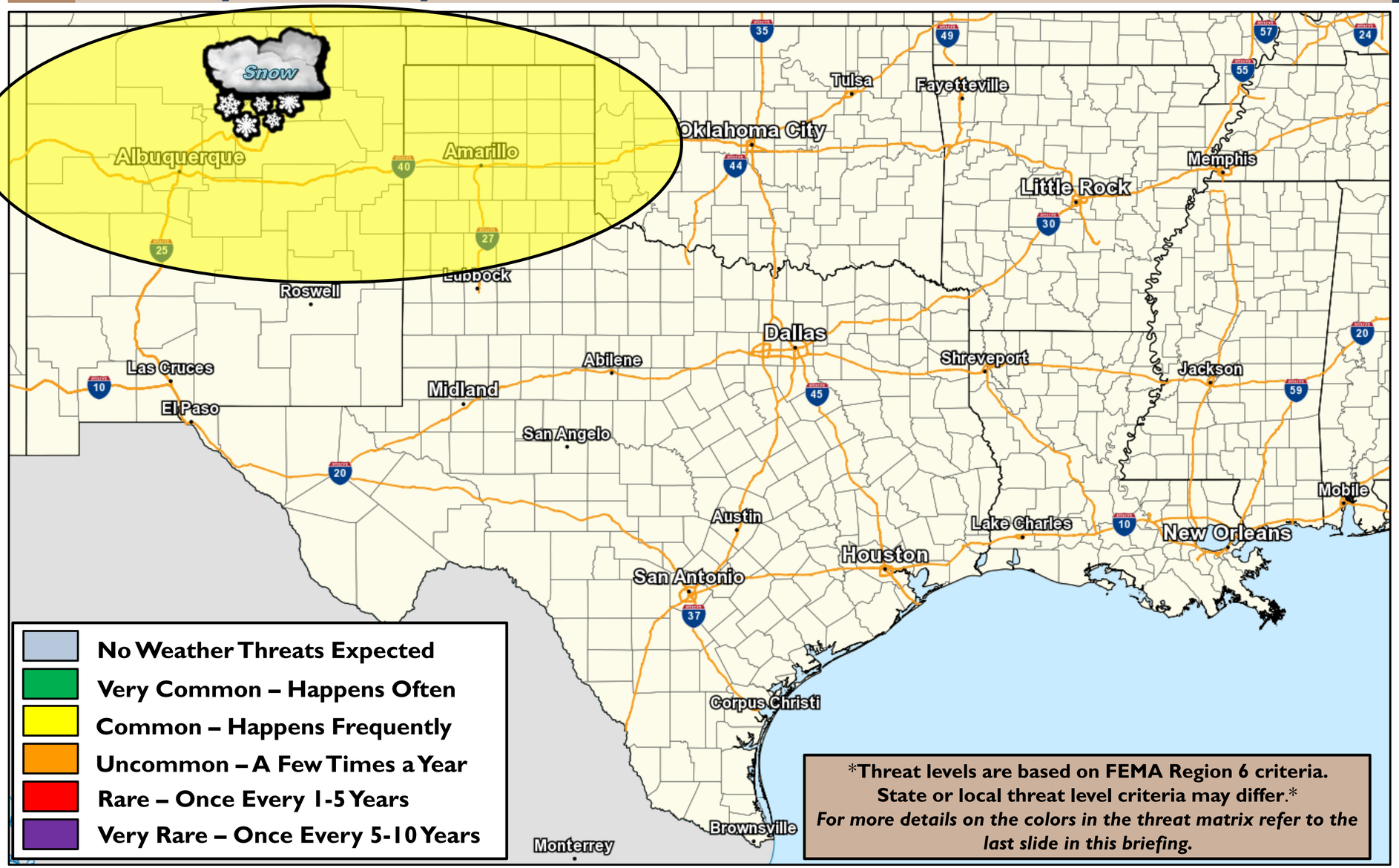

Winter travel impacts may develop in the high terrain and eastern NM beginning Sunday, spreading into the TX/OK Panhandles by Monday.
The degree of impacts remain uncertain at this time.

Space Weather 3-Day Forecast

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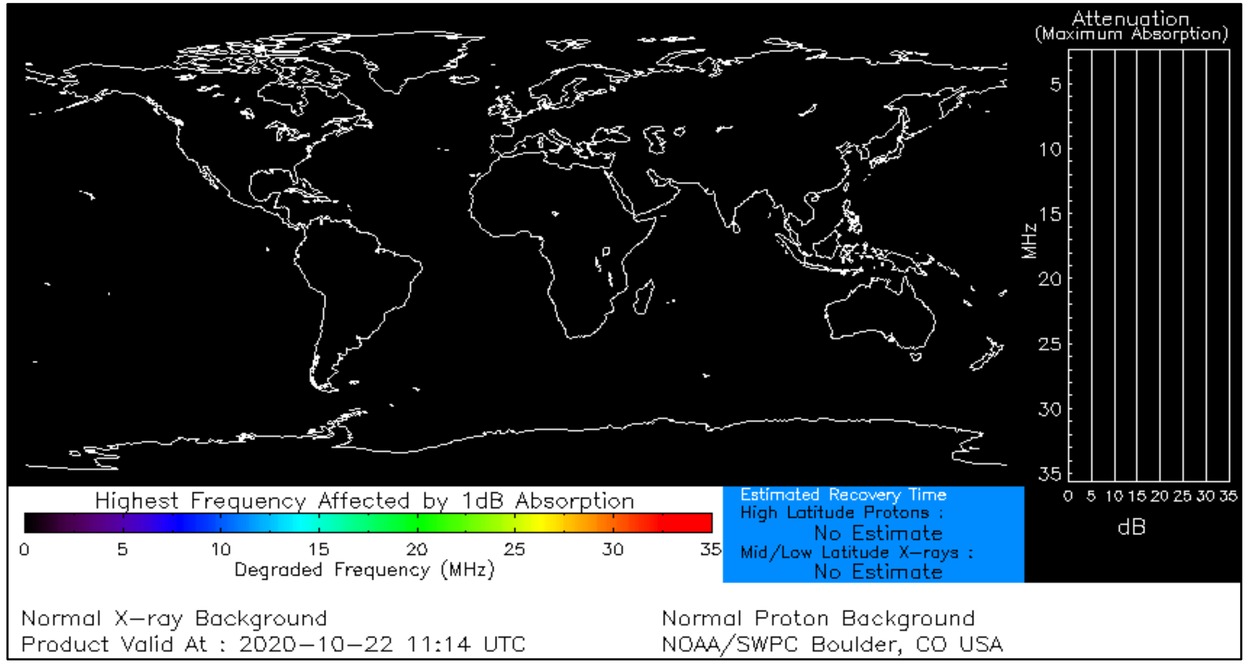
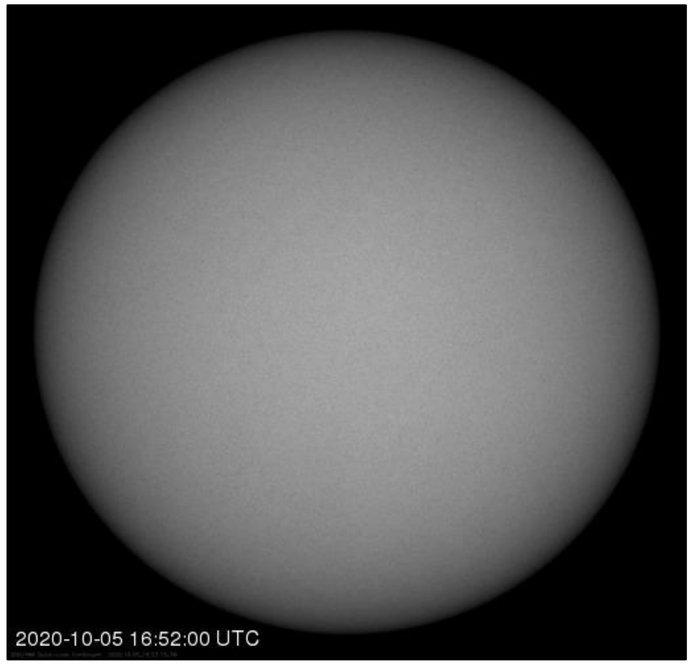
	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Geomagnetic Storms	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Active (Max Kp = 4)	Unsettled (Max Kp = 3)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



[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
Web: http://www.weather.gov/srh

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Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	**Definition**	**Criteria**	**Example(s)**
Green	**Very Common** Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	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	• 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	**Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently** Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	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	• 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	**Uncommon – A Few Times a Year** Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	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	• 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	**Rare – Once every 1-5 Years** Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	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	• 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	**Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years** 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	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	• 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.