FEMA

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 and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6
Weather Threat Briefing

Wednesday, March 14, 2018
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Threat: Elevated to Critical Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX/OK Panhandles and W OK. Red Flag Warning in effect across W OK.

Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

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

Prepared by: Felecia Bowser
817-978-1100 x 147

Key Points

Today through Sunday

- Freeze Warning expires 10 am TODAY across NE AR.
- Elevated to Critical Fire Weather conditions in E NM, TX & OK Panhandles and W OK TODAY expanding to the Upper Trans-Pecos TOMORROW through SUNDAY. A Red Flag Warning is in effect across W OK TODAY.
- Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms possible across extreme NE TX, N LA, SE OK and AR on FRIDAY.

River Flood Status

- Minor to Moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede through this weekend.
- The Ouachita River at Felsenthal Lock and Dam in AR is near the end of its broad crest of 85.5 ft. (2.5 ft. above moderate flood stage). The Ouachita River at Columbia Lock and Dam in LA is not expected to crest until Saturday March 17th at 69 ft. (2 ft. above moderate flood stage).
- The Mississippi River at Helena, AR is falling from its crest. The river at New Madrid, MO and Tiptonville, AR are expected to fall below flood stage the evening of Friday March 16th.
- The crest on the MS River is just upriver of Arkansas City, AR. The river at Arkansas City will climb slowly today to reach a crest of 43 ft.
- The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach 8.0 ft. (moderate flood stage) on March 23rd.

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix
Mar 13, 2018 - Mar 17, 2018

DAY / THREAT	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Severe Storms			AR, NE TX, N LA, SE OK		
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding					
Fire Weather	E NM/ TX/OK Panhandles /W OK	E NM/ TX/OK Panhandles/Upper Trans-Pecos/ W OK	E NM TX/OK Panhandles/South Plains/Upper Trans-Pecos/W OK/Permian Basin	E NM TX/OK Panhandles/Upper Trans-Pecos	E NM TX/OK Panhandles /Upper Trans-Pecos
Winter	NW AR				
River Flooding	E & S AR, N, E & SE LA	→	→	→	→
	E TX, LA, AR	→	→	→	→

- 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

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

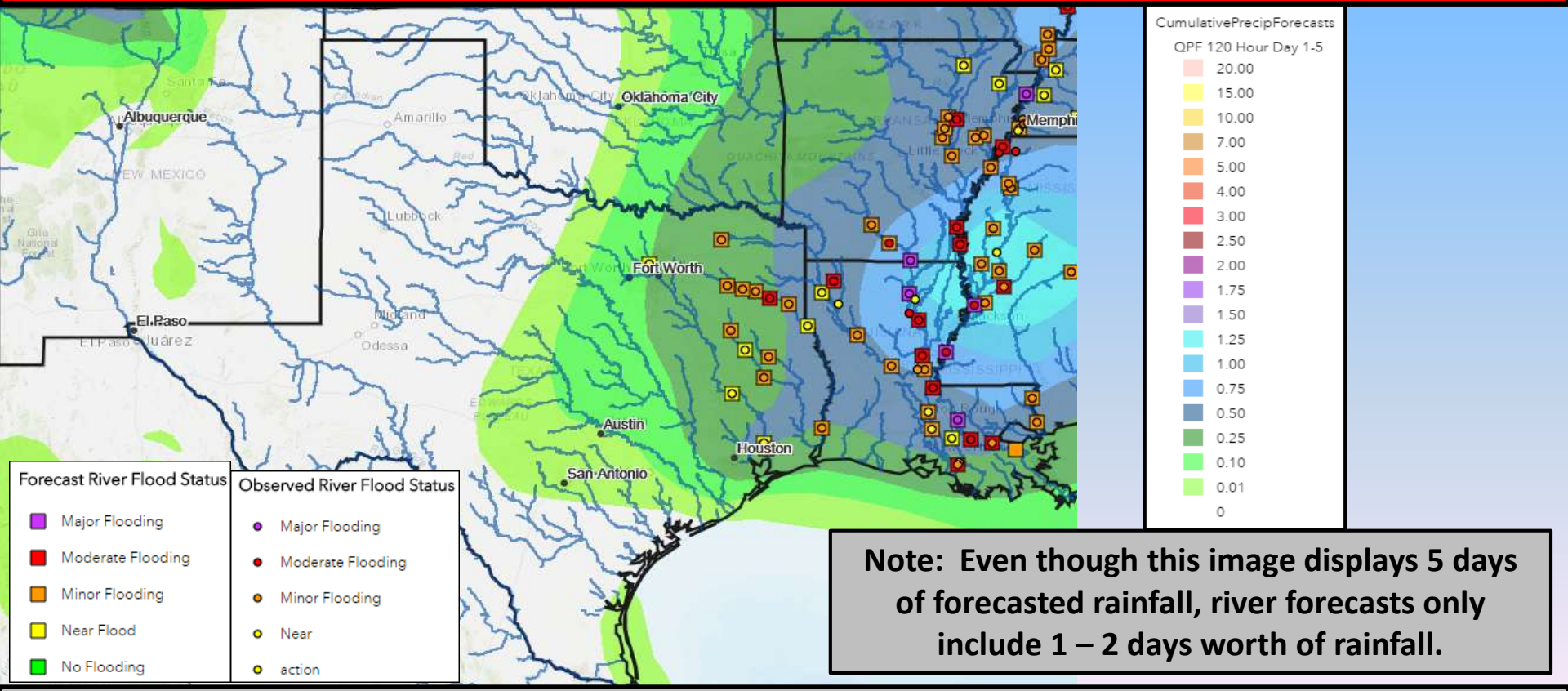
5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

Minor to moderate flooding continues in E TX, LA and AR and rivers will continue to recede.

- **The Ouachita River at Felsenthal Lock and Dam in AR is near the end of its broad crest of 85.5 ft. (2.5 ft. above moderate flood stage). The Ouachita River at Columbia Lock and Dam in LA is not expected to crest until Saturday**

The crest on the MS River is just upriver of Arkansas City, AR. The river at Arkansas City will climb slowly today to reach a crest of 43 ft.

- **The Atchafalaya River continues to rise; the crest at Morgan City is expected to reach 8.0 ft. (moderate flood stage) on March 23rd.**



Note: Even though this image displays 5 days of forecasted rainfall, river forecasts only include 1 – 2 days worth of rainfall.

See http://water.weather.gov/ahps for the latest on river flooding

Mississippi River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 13, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

NWSLMRFC @NWSLMRFC

MS River at Memphis, TN
Current Stage: 39' MINOR Flood Stage (F.S)
Forecast: Falling — Below Flood Stage Sat Mar 17

MS River at Helena, AR
Current: 47.3' MINOR Flood Stage (F.S)
Forecast: Falling — Below Flood Stage Sun Mar 18

MS River at Greenville, MS
Current: 54.6' MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 55' (MODERATE F.S.) on Thu. Mar 15

MS River at Red River Landing, LA
Current: 60.1' MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 61' (MODERATE F.S.) on Tue. Mar 20

MS River at Baton Rouge, LA
Current: 42.6' MAJOR Flood Stage (F.S.)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 43.5' (MAJOR F.S.) on Wed. Mar 21

MS River at Tunica, MS
Current: 50.4' MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S)
Forecast: Falling — Below Flood Stage Mon Mar 19

MS River at Arkansas City, AR
Current: 42.9' MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 43' (MODERATE F.S.) Wed. Mar 14

MS River at Vicksburg, MS
Current: 49.4' MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S.)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 50.2' (MAJOR F.S.) on Sat. Mar 17

MS River at Natchez, MS
Current: 56.3' MODERATE Flood Stage (F.S)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 57.2' (MAJOR F.S.) on Mon. Mar 19

MS River at New Orleans, LA
Current: 16.6'
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 17' (MINOR F.S) on Tue. Mar 13

★ Location of Mississippi River Crest Today ● Forecast Assumes operation at Bonnet Carré

Atchafalaya River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 13, 2018

Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

NWSLMRFC @NWSLMRFC

Black River at Jonesville
Current: 51.7 MINOR Flood Stage (F.S)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 53.5' (Moderate F.S.) Sun. Mar 18

Backwater

Black River at Acme
Current: 48.5' MINOR Flood Stage (F.S)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 50' (Minor F.S.) Tue. Mar 20

Atchafalaya River at Simmesport
Current: 40'
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 42' on Tue. Mar 20

Atchafalaya River at Melville
Current: 31.1'
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 33' (Action F.S.) Tue. Mar 20

Atchafalaya River at Krotz Springs
Current: 27.8'
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 29.5' (Minor F.S.) Wed. Mar 21

Atchafalaya River at Myette Point
Current: 11.7' (Estimated)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 12.5' on Fri. Mar 23

Atchafalaya River at Butte La Rose
Current: 19.6' Action Flood Stage (F.S.)
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 21' (Minor F.S.) Thu. Mar 22

Atchafalaya River at Morgan City
Current: 6.6' MINOR Flood Stage
Forecast: Rising — Crest at 8' (Moderate F.S.) Fri. Mar 23

Old River Control Structure
Forecast assumes no operation at Morganza

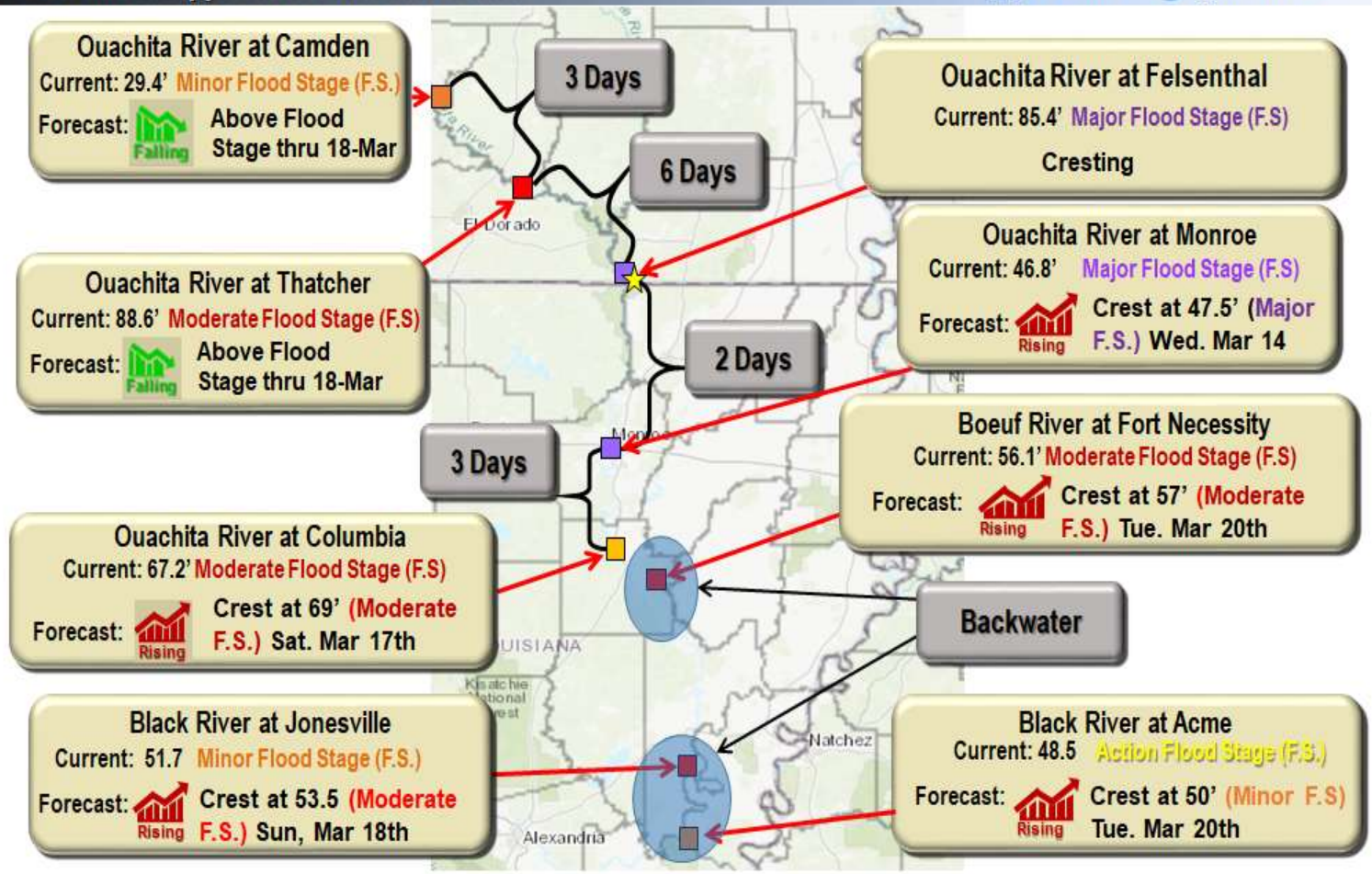
Backwater - Water moving upstream from Old River Control Structure

Ouachita River Crest Watch

Crests and LMRFC forecasts produced morning of March 13, 2018

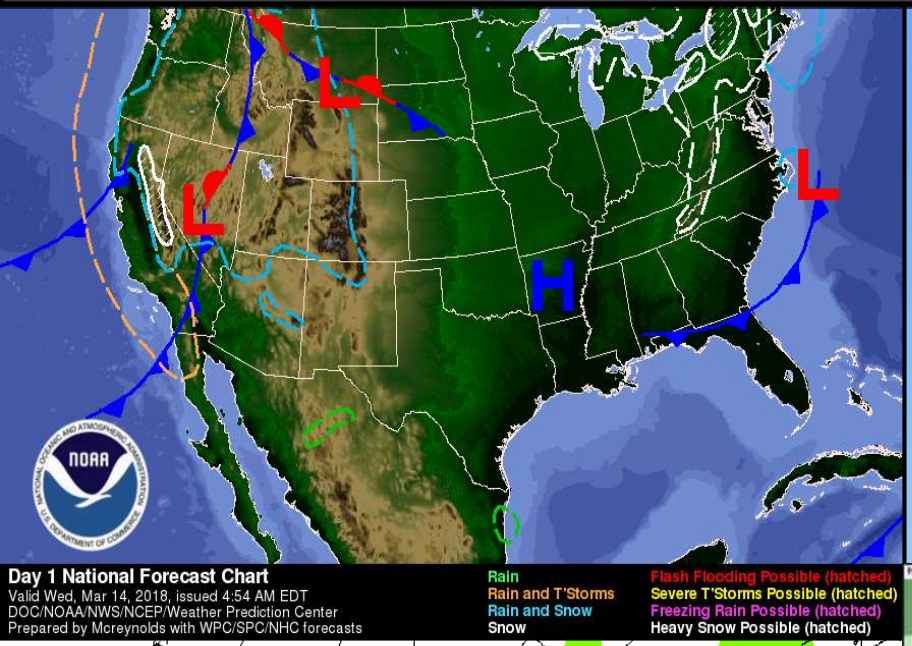
Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

NWSLMRFC @NWSLMRFC



★ Crest Today

Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart
Valid Wed, Mar 14, 2018, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

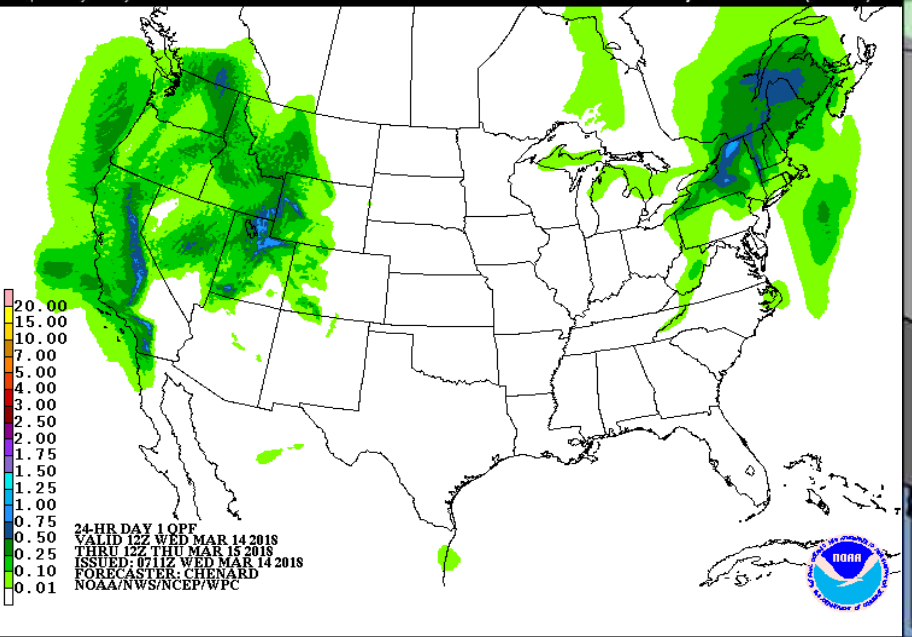
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

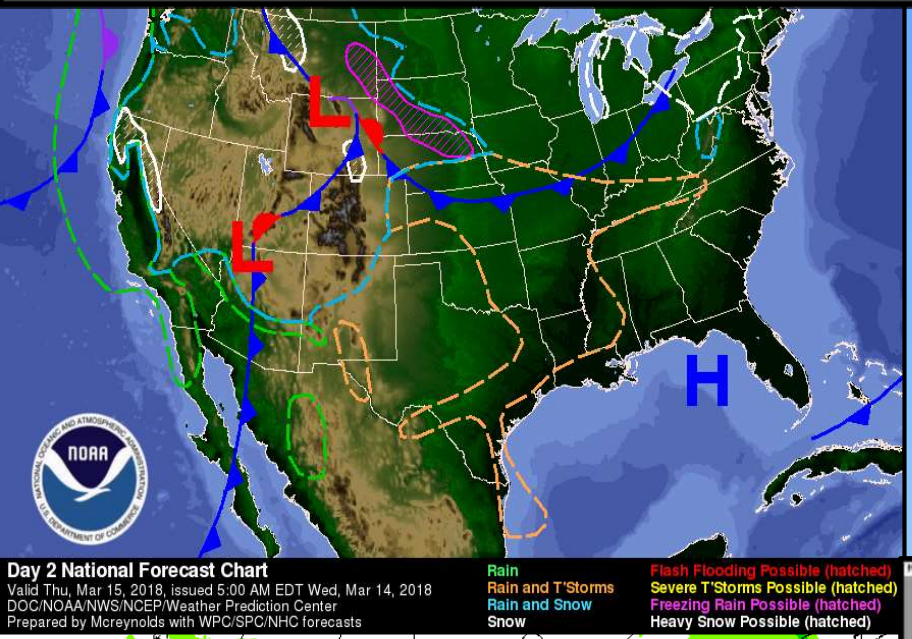
Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Elevated Fire Weather in E NM, TX & OK Panhandles & W OK



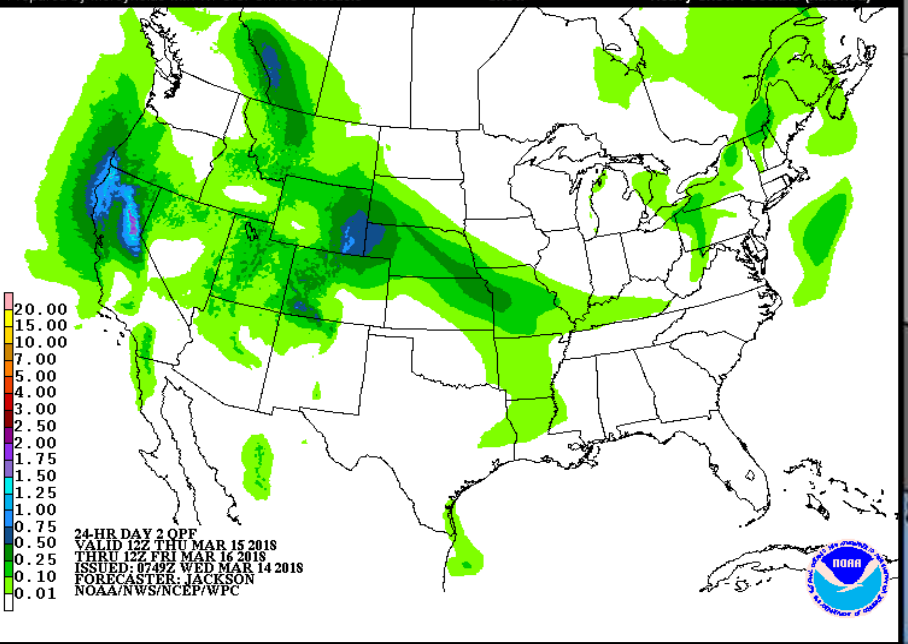
Tomorrow's Weather



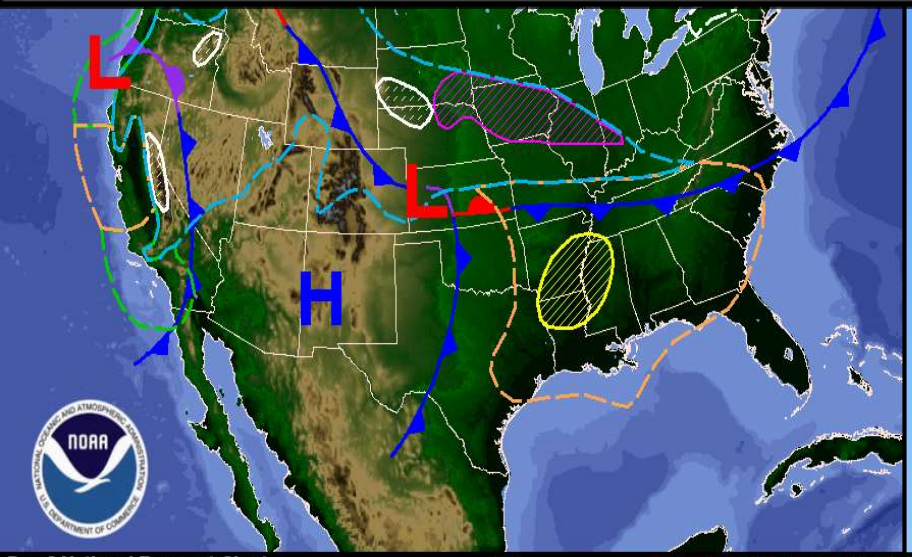
Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

Elevated Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX & OK Panhandles, W OK and Upper Trans-Pecos.



Friday's Weather



Day 3 National Forecast Chart
Valid Fri, Mar 16, 2018, issued 5:06 AM EDT Wed, Mar 14, 2018
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

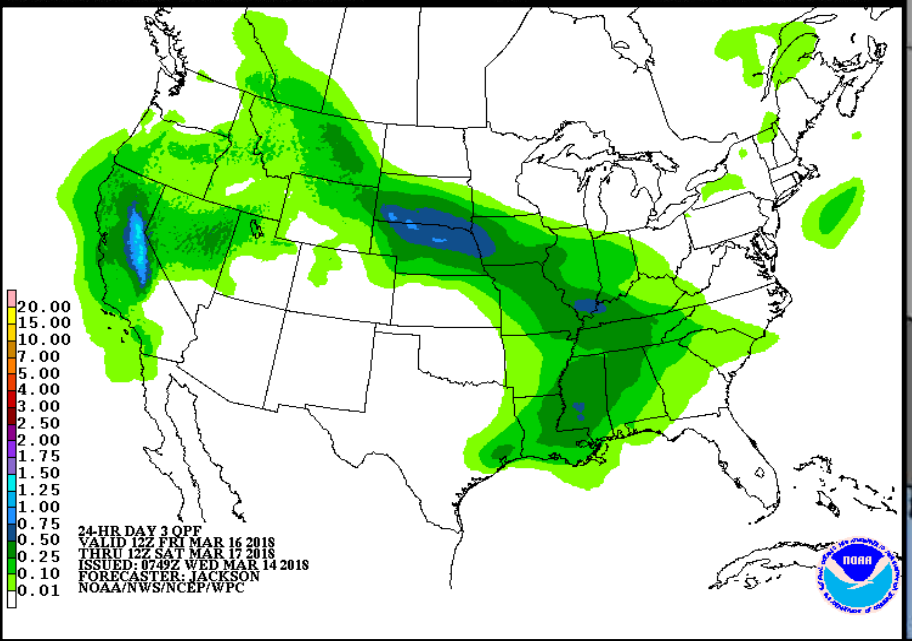
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

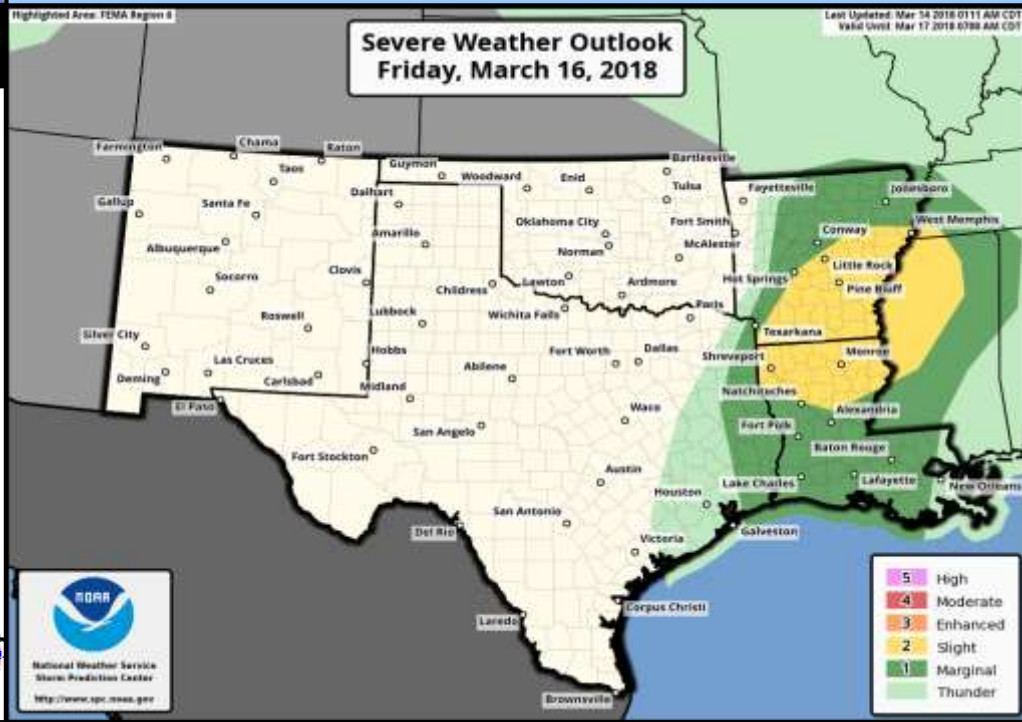
Moderate to major flooding continues on the Ouachita River, MS River and Atchafalaya River.

Minor to moderate flooding will continue in E TX, LA and AR but rivers will continue to slowly recede.

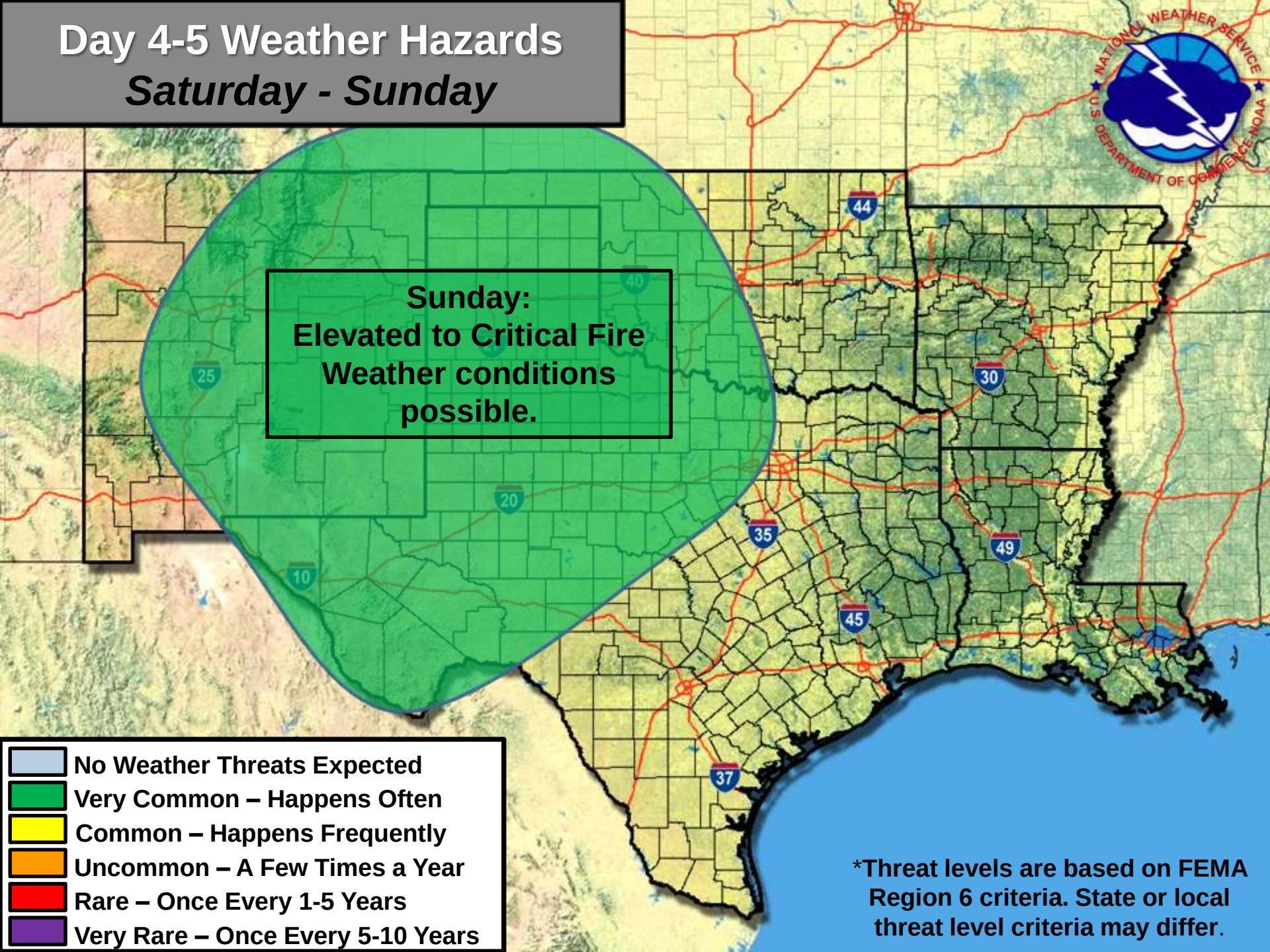
Slight Risk of severe thunderstorms across SE OK, NE TX, N LA and AR.

Elevated Fire Weather conditions across E NM, TX & OK Panhandles, W OK and Upper Trans-Pecos, South Plains & Permian Basin.



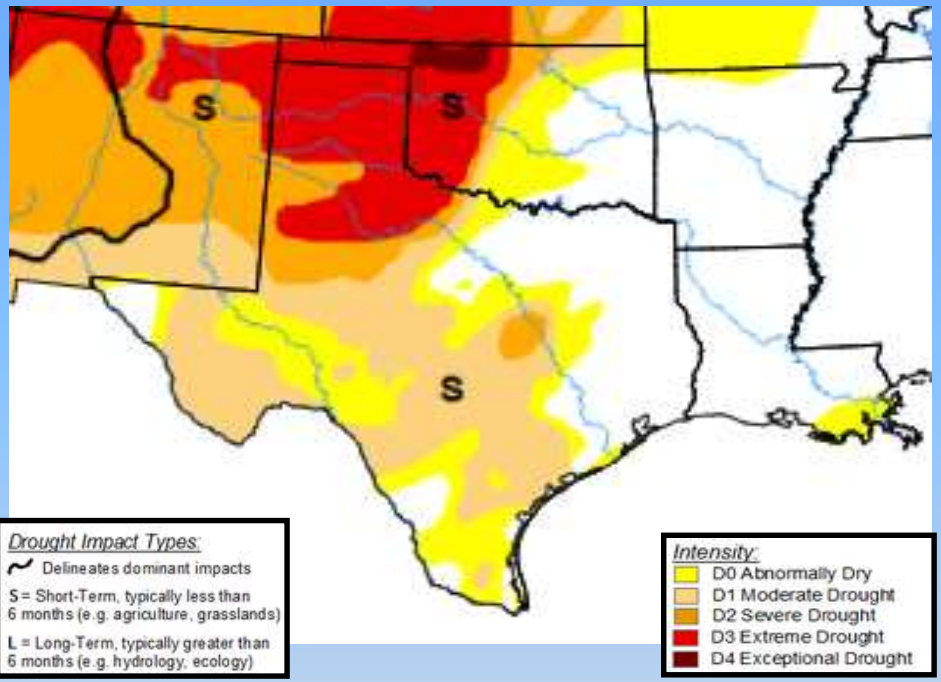


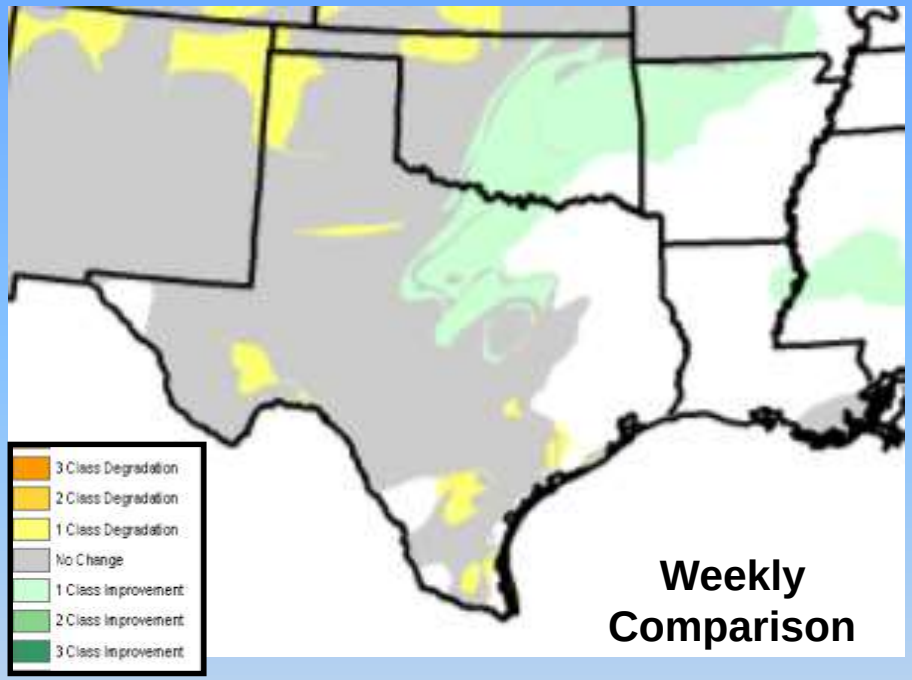
Day 4-5 Weather Hazards
Saturday - Sunday



Drought Monitor Released March 8, 2018

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, March 6, 2018





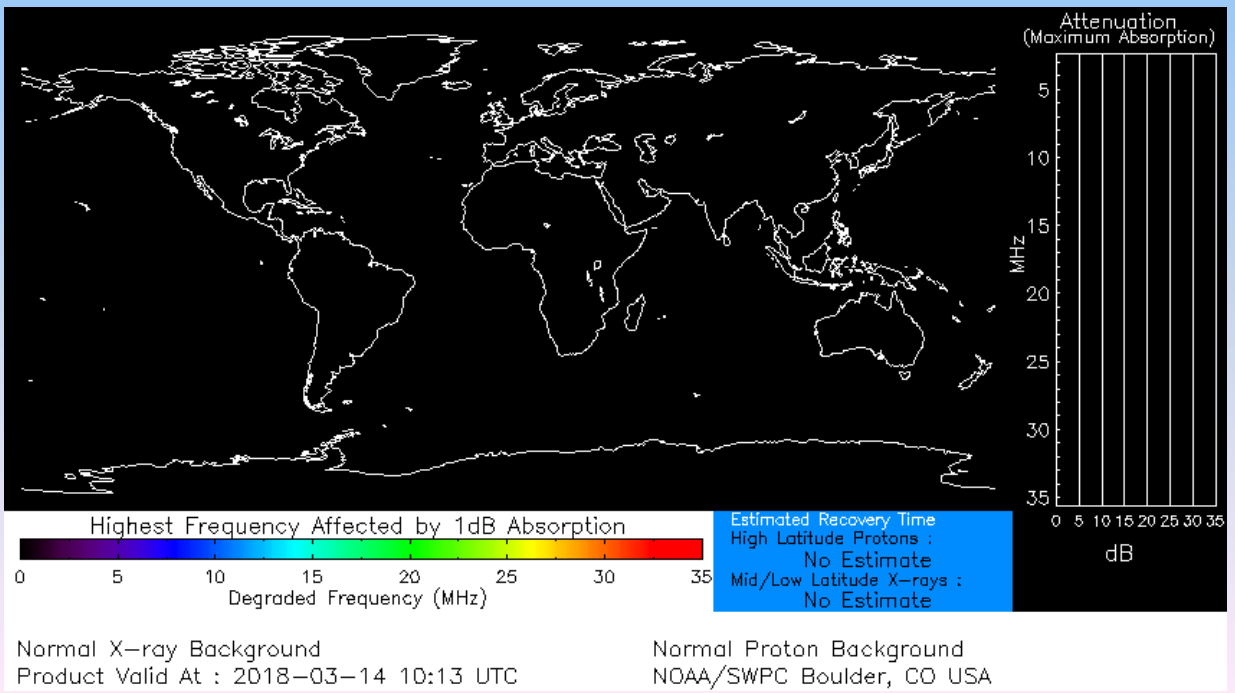
Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)				
State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	0.00%	0.00%	14.66%	2.00%
Louisiana	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	34.45%	32.91%	0.78%	3.17%
Texas	14.16%	11.47%	0.00%	0.00%
New Mexico	17.08%	5.23%	0.00%	0.00%

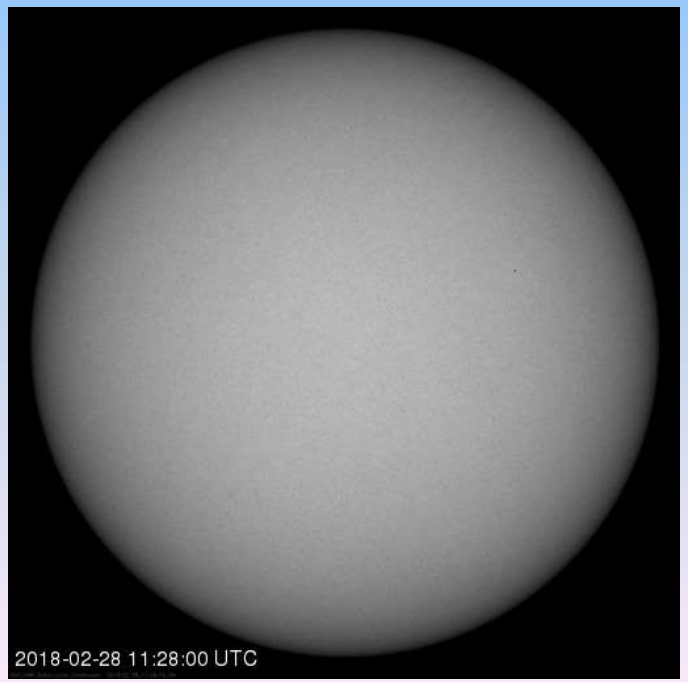
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Geomagnetic Storms	Quiet (Max Kp = 5)	Quiet (Max Kp = 5)	Quiet (Max Kp = 4)
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]





Information provided by:

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

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: http://www.weather.gov/srh (**NEW link!!**)

facebook https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern

twitter **@NWS_Southern_US** https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.

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