

Southern Area Wildfire Risk Assessment

Spring 2026

Southern Area Decision Support Group

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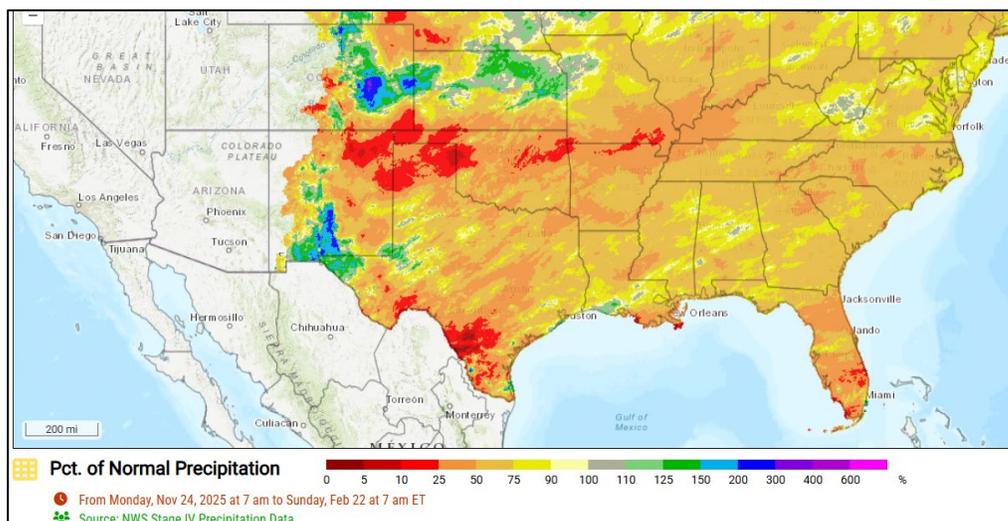
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Executive Summary

Weather conditions across the Southern Region during the fall and winter months preceding spring wildfire season can be a strong predictor as to the severity of the upcoming season. The fall of 2025 was historically dry across large swaths of the southeast, and this trend continued into the winter months leading up to spring. This wildfire risk assessment evaluates the influences and impacts those conditions will likely have on fire activity across the South as we enter spring fire season 2026. The outlook period extends from late February/early March through approximately mid-May. In addition to trends from this past fall and winter, this analysis will focus on current fuels conditions and any known deviations from normal, relevant National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indices and metrics, and a longer-range weather outlook for the upcoming spring.

When considering the strongest indicators of fire danger and fire potential – current conditions such as fuel loading and moisture, as well as expected weather that might impact those fuel conditions – the areas of most concern this spring in the Southern Area are the Southern Plains states of Texas and Oklahoma, southeast Georgia and the state of Florida.

The Southern Area just experienced one of the drier Fall seasons on record. Winter precipitation can sometimes alleviate fall deficits, but this winter so far has failed to provide adequate precipitation to erase rainfall deficits. Recent winter storms have tempered drought conditions somewhat, and cold winter temperatures have kept fire danger at low to moderate levels, which is typically expected for wintertime. Actual rainfall for the past 90 days, however, has been trending on average at about 50% of normal across much of the Southern Region. There are



Map depicting percent of normal precipitation for the last 90 days (from North Carolina State Climate Office Fire Weather Intelligence Portal: <https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/fire/>)

isolated pockets that are as high as 80% of normal, but conversely there are noticeable pockets where rainfall totals are nearly 25% of normal as well.

Those areas of Texas/Oklahoma, as well as southeast Georgia and the state of Florida, with fuel anomalies (grass loading in Texas and Oklahoma, frost kill/drought/low water levels in SE GA and Florida) are significant when looked at independently. The issue becomes more apparent when viewed from the fact that spring season is the time of year that more problematic fire weather is typically experienced in these areas. The Southern Plains is a fine fuel environment where drought nor KBDI need be elevated for serious fire spread to occur. A brief period of low relative humidity coupled with windy conditions is usually enough to trigger fire danger and those conditions are quite common in that area during spring. In fact, it would be unusual for those conditions to not present themselves at some point over the spring. As for southeast Georgia and Florida, much of the area is in D3 (extreme) and D4 (exceptional) drought classification. In a normal year, the months of February, March and April are typically drier months. It is not likely that drought conditions will alleviate during the next 60 days or so across most of this area.

In order for persistent, above normal fire danger conditions to *not* be experienced in these areas this spring, weather conditions that are atypical to normal climatology would need to materialize. Fire danger does not always equal fire occurrence, but a safe assumption would be that with drier than normal conditions – above normal fire occurrence is likely as well. If fires occur when fuels and weather conditions are both elevated, suppression difficulty can be expected to exceed what is considered normal and in fact will be challenging.

Other areas of the Region that are cause for concern and monitoring include the Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont areas of both the Carolinas and Georgia. These areas have been in prolonged drought since late summer of 2025. Recent winter storms (both ice and snow) have tempered conditions somewhat and unusually cold January temperatures have kept fire danger manageable recently, but elevated KBDI levels, low stream flow readings and a general precipitation deficit since last September could quickly see a return to high fire danger as warmer spring weather develops.

Arkansas has been in a deficit of rainfall as well. 90-day percent of normal precipitation is trending closer to 25% than to 50% for most of the state. That translates into approximately a 6-to-8-inch deficit. Should weather conditions continue in the current direction, it is likely that Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma will experience above normal significant fire potential this spring.

The Southern Appalachians' daily fire danger has been trending low to moderate recently. This would be considered a normal range for this time of year. The current fire danger level is the result of regular and timely rainfall and cold wintertime conditions that have prevented ERC levels and fire danger from climbing upward. Overall rainfall, however, while reasonably frequent, has been a bit lower than normal. Most areas in the Southern Apps have had a rainfall deficit over the last 90 days. Many areas are trending near the region wide average of around 50% of normal. Some areas, including far southwestern NC and northeastern GA are showing rainfall deficits of 10 inches or more. As winter transitions to spring, warmer weather and almost certain low relative humidity levels on sunny spring days will increase fire danger concerns. A

quick reminder is that last spring, the Southern Appalachian portions of both North Carolina and South Carolina experienced challenging fire spread and growth when the driving factor was not KBDI nor drought, but instead low relative humidity and poor overnight recovery. This led to a nearly 24-hour burn period with fire spread that repeatedly breached containment lines that in most years were thought to be solid.

Another area that should be mentioned for potential concern is the area that suffered the greatest impact from Winter Storm Fern. Areas of Texas, Louisiana and in particular central Mississippi into central Tennessee experienced significant tree damage from freezing rain.



Ice damage in Tennessee

There is a noticeable amount of new fuel on the ground in parts of the ice storm path. In some areas the damage was confined to hardwood trees, which is usually less of a concern due to the lack of leaves during winter (less fine fuel). But many areas that had damage were in pine fuel or pine/hardwood mix. Any pine trees or limbs that were downed from the January ice storm will have adequate time to dry out and be available to contribute to fire behavior at some point this spring. While this situation might be more

of a local scale than regional, it should be kept in mind that fire intensity will probably be higher in these ice damaged areas, and that access and navigation will also likely be more difficult.

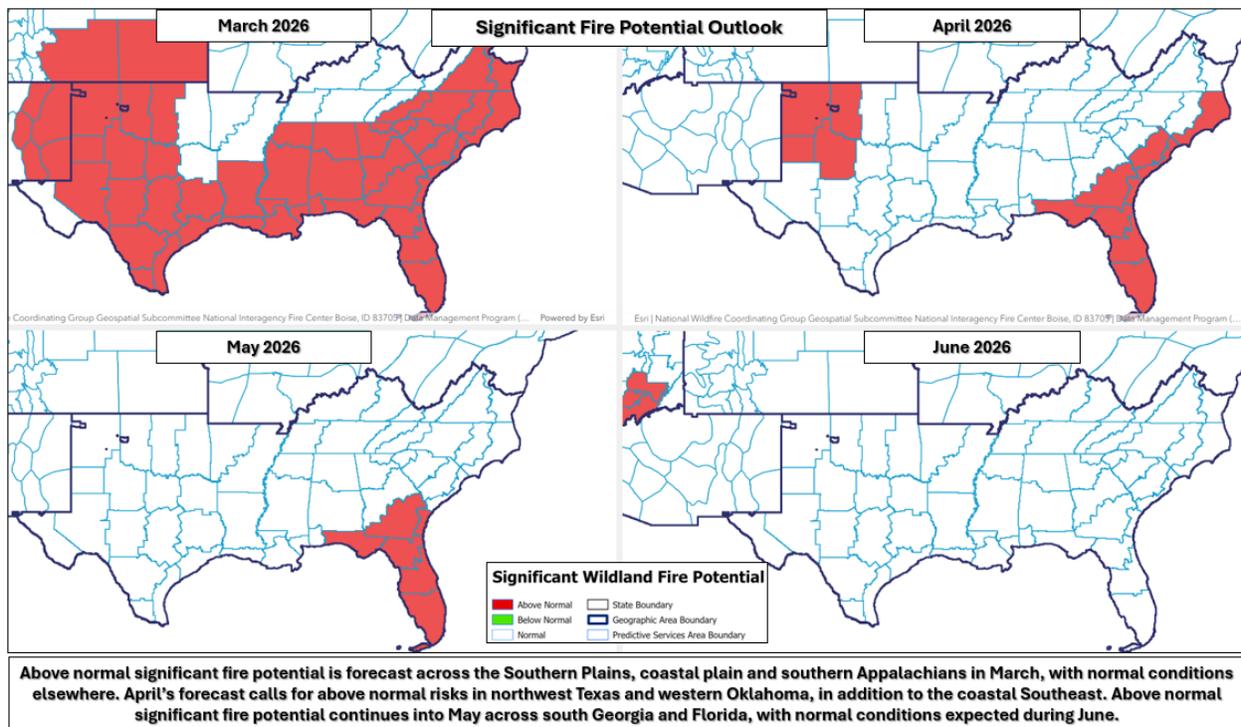
In an example of how quickly fire danger can change in the South, the Gulf Coast states of Mississippi and Louisiana experienced normal rainfall during the month of January but have been trending dry over the last 7 to 10 days. Fire occurrence has been steadily increasing, especially in Mississippi in recent days. Other areas within the Southern Region that are not currently highlighted with increased fire danger could trend in that direction over the coming spring, and it does not take long during leaf off season for that change to occur.

When considering several factors such as multiple areas with unfavorable fuel anomalies, drier than normal conditions across much of the South, and the fact that as winter exits and spring arrives, a return to warmer temperatures is inevitable. It appears more likely than not that the 2026 Spring Fire Season will be above normal as far as fire potential is concerned. Fire danger typically increases as spring weather warms and dries. For the spring of 2026, most models and predictions indicate a strong signal for even warmer and dryer than average. If actual weather trends are closer to normal than forecasts currently indicate, there is still a high likelihood for above average potential due to the mentioned fuel anomalies and the current state of dryness across the region. If weather forecasts prove accurate and the Southern Area does in fact experience a drier and warmer than average spring, then fire concerns will be exponentially increased. It would be highly unlikely for all areas of heightened concern across the Region to receive adequate precipitation simultaneously to alleviate the concerns for an active spring season. More than likely, at least one or two areas of concern will remain dry, and if fire occurrence materializes, challenging suppression conditions will likely be encountered.

According to the North American Seasonal Wildland Fire Assessment and Outlook from NIFC Predictive Services for February – May 2026 (issued February 13, 2026):

“In March, above normal potential will expand to cover most of the Southern Area, except the northern tier from Arkansas to western Virginia, southeast and West Texas, and southwest Louisiana, which will remain normal...For April, above normal significant fire potential will be reduced to the southeast Atlantic coast and Florida, with the rest of the U.S. normal.”

As drought strengthens across much of the Southern Area and forecasts point to a warmer than average spring season, it is not surprising that most of the Southeast should expect above normal wildfire activity through at least March. Based on increasing drought in Texas and Oklahoma and forecasts for warmer and drier to persist in the western portion of the GACC, it is likely that the Southern Great Plains will remain active with wildfires until green-up occurs in April or early May. As fire danger winds down in Texas and Oklahoma, it is likely that relief will come to much of the Southern Area aside from Florida and the Atlantic Coast as the ENSO pattern turns back to neutral. By May, significant fire potential is forecast to be isolated to Florida and Southern Georgia and then dissipate altogether as humid conditions and convection storm patterns return with summer.



Key Findings

- The fall of 2025 was one of the top 5 to 10 driest falls in 130 years across much of the South. Early winter of 2026 has provided limited relief.
- Robust annual grass growth in Texas and Oklahoma is of significant concern to fire managers in those states. Problematic fire spread has already been experienced and is expected to last until green-up in April or May due to a forecast of warmer and drier conditions over the next few months.
- No tropical activity in Florida during the Fall of 2025 coupled with continued dry weather has contributed to extremely dry conditions across most of that state. Cold temperatures in central and south Florida have created vast areas of frost killed vegetation extending as far south as the Everglades.
- Helene fuels remain on the landscape and are continuing to dry and become more available. Access for suppression is still a challenge and a safety issue in impacted areas.
- This winter's national transition from WIMS to FEMS is producing fire danger outputs that require further calibration at the local level and thus could result in some misrepresentation of fire danger this spring as we collectively learn the new system.
- The potential exists for multiple areas to be in high fire danger or high fire activity at the same time
- In a fine fuel environment, fire danger can quickly increase under periods of elevated fire weather.
- Fuel anomalies, paired with extreme region-wide drought in 2026, may prove to be the largest driver of fire spread and suppression difficulty across the Region

Management Implications and Recommendations

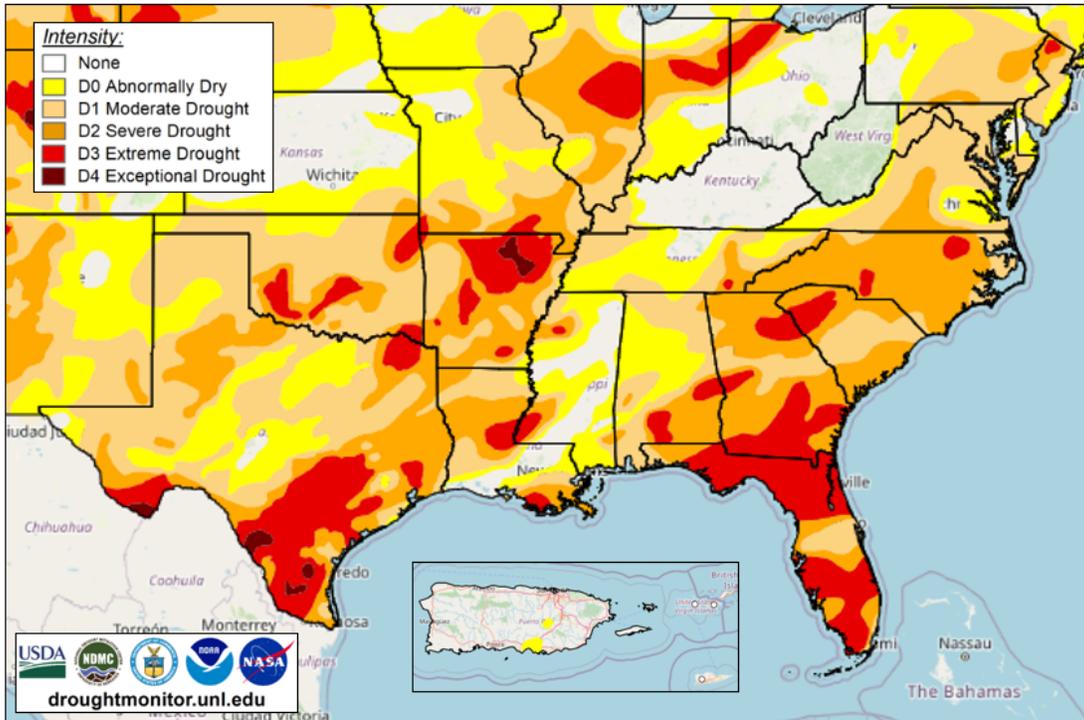
- Expect Extreme Fire Behavior: In areas where fire danger indices exceed the 90th percentile, anticipate rapid fire spread, higher intensity, and increased spotting. Fire intensity may prevent direct attack – consider indirect attack and point protection.
- Expect an increase in fuel receptivity, fire behavior, and spotting as green-up begins to occur, and until full leaf-out is complete, as leaf production draws moisture out of the soil and duff through evapotranspiration.
- Consider the indices that are chosen to portray fire danger. ERC and KBDI are a typical default metric in the Southern Area. For areas that contain predominantly fine fuels, Burning Index or Spread Component may be a better gauge of fire spread potential on any single day – especially if winds are elevated.
- Consider fine fuel moisture levels. Fine Dead Fuel Moisture can be an excellent gauge of fire spread potential in many areas of the South.
- Prolonged Mop-Up in Drought Areas: Fires in drought-affected regions may smolder for extended periods, requiring more resources for mop-up and patrol. Be prepared for possible reburns on contained fires.

- Ground fire potential is increased during periods of drought or elevated KBDI levels, especially in organic soils. Consider aggressive mop up with large amounts of water prior to ground fire becoming established.
- Smoke production will be excessive when ground fire occurs or in fuels disturbed by hurricanes, tornados, ice storms, insects, etc. Consider an Air Resource Advisor or other smoke mitigations.
- Caution in Prescribed Burns: Drought conditions can amplify fire behavior and extend the mop up and monitoring period. Prescribed burns may need additional staffing and contingency resources for safe execution.
- Fuel Anomalies can cause unexpected issues on prescribed burns. Heavy fine fuel loading can be problematic for spotting and general fire control. Frost killed vegetation typically adds to the available fine fuel loading.
- Prepare for Dry Cold Fronts: Expect rapid drops in humidity and strong gusty winds behind springtime cold fronts. It is not uncommon for these fronts to be dry or nearly dry and they can sharply elevate fire behavior.
- Monitor Frost-Cured Vegetation: Vertically oriented frost cured fuel can be a fire control problem. Flame lengths tend to be at least as high as the vegetation. Expect volatility and increased intensity.
- Address Fatigue: Extended fire suppression efforts may lead to firefighter fatigue. Monitor fatigue closely and consider out-of-region resources to relieve local personnel.
- Thoroughly brief firefighters on fuel or weather conditions that are departed from normal. Provide a reference point and give examples, descriptions or photos of current fire behavior.
- Use Predictive Services: Helpful products are refreshed daily on the SACC website. RMA Dashboard has multiple tools such as Suppression Difficulty Index, POD lines, Snag hazard and Firefighter Evacuation times.
- Prioritize Safety: Always STOP, THINK, TALK, and ACT to minimize risks to firefighters.
- Regardless of whether weather forecasts for a warmer and drier spring prove correct, spring is normally a time of warming and drying. Increasing fire conditions should be expected as the season progresses.
- Other regions of the country are currently experiencing critically low snowpack. It is possible these areas may experience an early start to their fire season which could impact resource availability for the Southern Region.

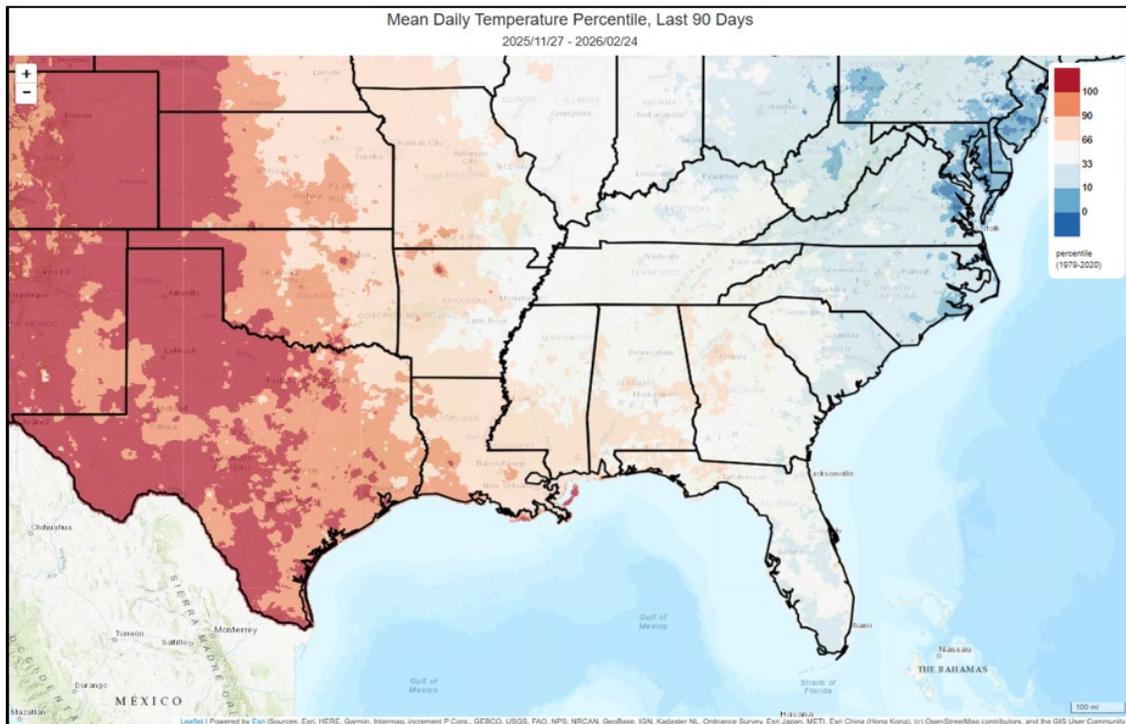
Climate and Weather Assessment

Summary

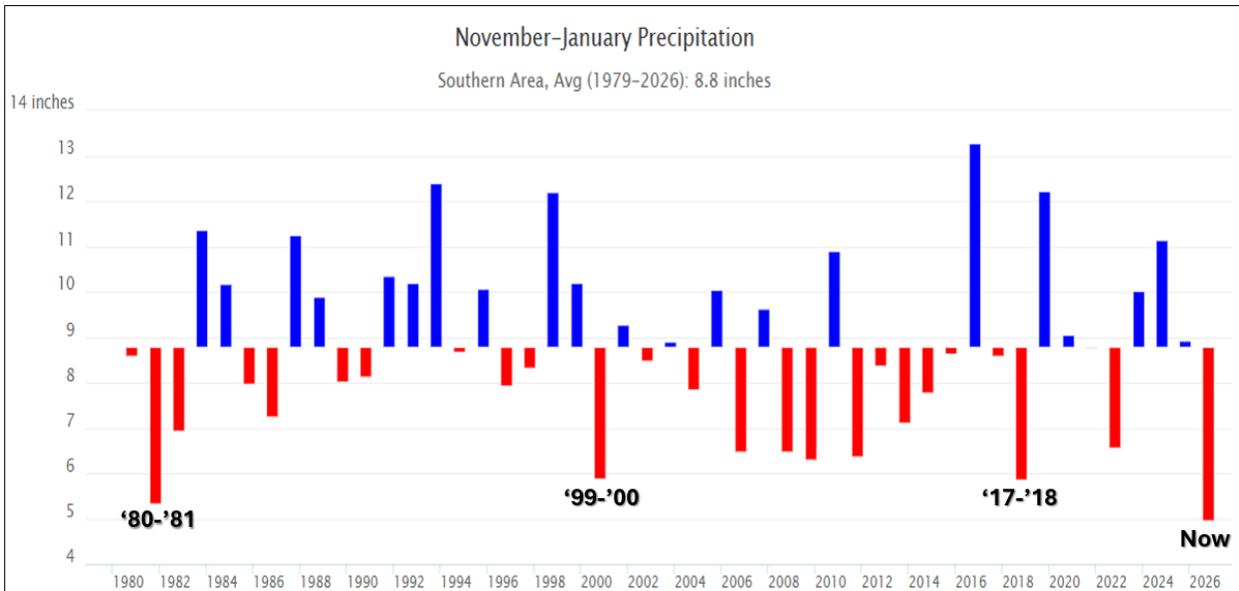
- This past November – February was the driest period in the Southern Area for the same months since at least the late 1970s due in part to lack of beneficial rain from tropical storm activity and an established La Nina ENSO pattern.
- As unusually warm weather takes hold in March, green-up will get into full swing, increasing pressure on the water table and already depleted soil moisture. Areas that do not see sufficient soil moisture recharge could also have lingering issues well into the growing season.
- Confidence is increasing that the typical La Niña storm track will finally set in during March, likely resulting in drought relief and no worse than normal significant fire potential from portions of the eastern Plains into the Mid-Mississippi Valley. This pattern also increases the potential for and frequency of high wind events across western Oklahoma and Texas, similar to the extreme weather that led to a Southern Great Plains Wildfire Outbreak on February 17th.
- Well-timed rainfall has maintained a moderated fire environment so far across the southern Appalachians and Piedmont, but as record warmth develops amid periods of dry weather in March, underlying drought and access issues associated with complex terrain and Hurricane Helene will come into play.
- Above normal significant fire potential has been extended into April across western Oklahoma and northwest Texas, where widespread above normal to locally exceptional fuel loads may dominate the fire environment into the climatological peak of their dormant season.
- The coastal Southeast is expected to have prolonged impacts from the fall and winter drought, even as potentially wetter conditions develop later in April or May. The scope of unusually low water levels and soil moisture now followed by abundant lightning through spring is a worrisome combination across Florida, Georgia and up the Eastern Seaboard into the Carolinas, increasing the potential for an extraordinary spring fire season across the coastal Southeast.
- Normal significant fire potential is expected regionally by June, but the potential for drought to carry through spring into summer across portions of the Plains, Gulf coastal plain and Southeast will have to be monitored closely. Concerns for an active summer fire season may become concentrated in the pine-dominant areas of east Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi if El Niño rapidly sets in, similar to 2023, but confidence in this scenario is low for the time being.
- Most of the Caribbean has been atypically wet the past three months during what is normally the dry season. San Juan Airport for instance has observed its 10th wettest three-month period in the past 70 years, while rainfall across typically drier southern Puerto Rico is running 200-400% of normal for the same period. Abundant fuel growth notwithstanding, this moisture should at least temper the fire environment in the short term.



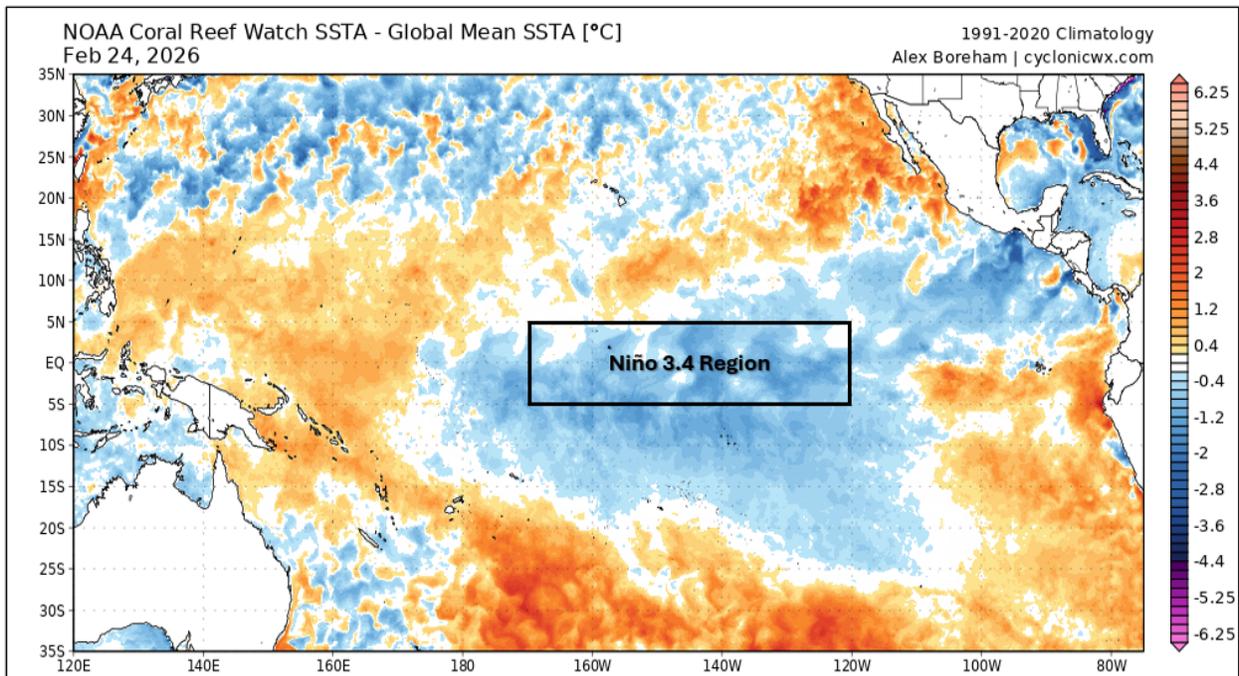
The U.S. Drought Monitor update from February 24th, 2026, indicates widespread drought across the Southern Area. At least extreme drought covered portions of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina this winter. The Caribbean has seen a wet winter.



The Climate Toolbox climate tracker tool depicts 90-day temperature percentiles ending February 24th. Near-record warmth encompassed the Southern Plains, while portions of eastern North Carolina and Virginia saw one of the coldest winters in recent history. Temperatures were closer to the 1979-2020 climatological average from the Middle Mississippi Valley into the rest of the Southeast.



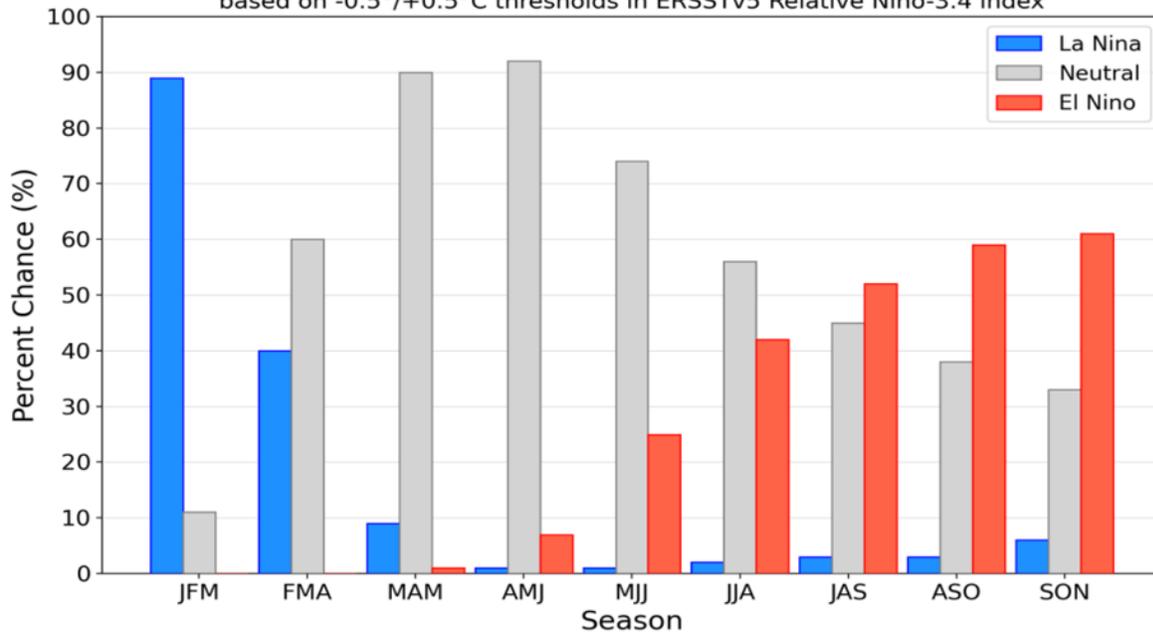
The Climate Toolbox historical climate tracker tool indicates the November 2025 to January 2026 period was the driest since at least 1979 across a polygon encompassing the contiguous Southern Area. The closest comparisons include 1980-1981, 1999-2000 and 2017-2018.



Globally-relative sea surface temperature anomalies from cyclonicwx.com indicate cooler than average conditions across the central tropical Pacific Ocean. This sea surface temperature pattern in the highlighted Niño 3.4 region is typical of La Niña and correlates with weather patterns that enhance drought, severe weather and wildfire activity across the Southern Area during winter and early spring.

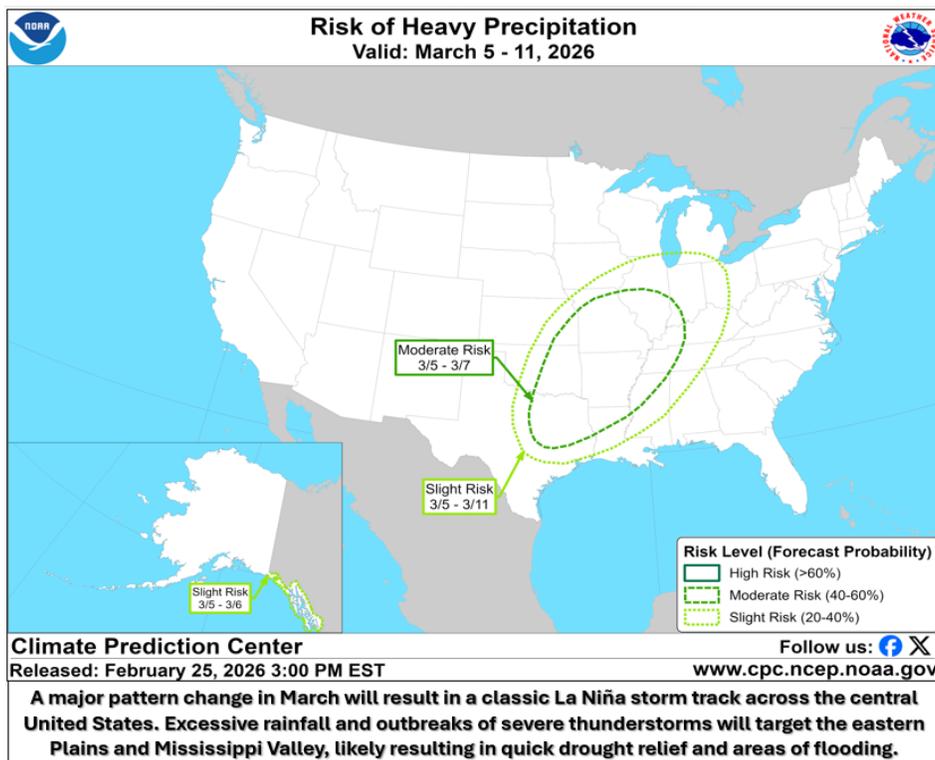
Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued February 2026)

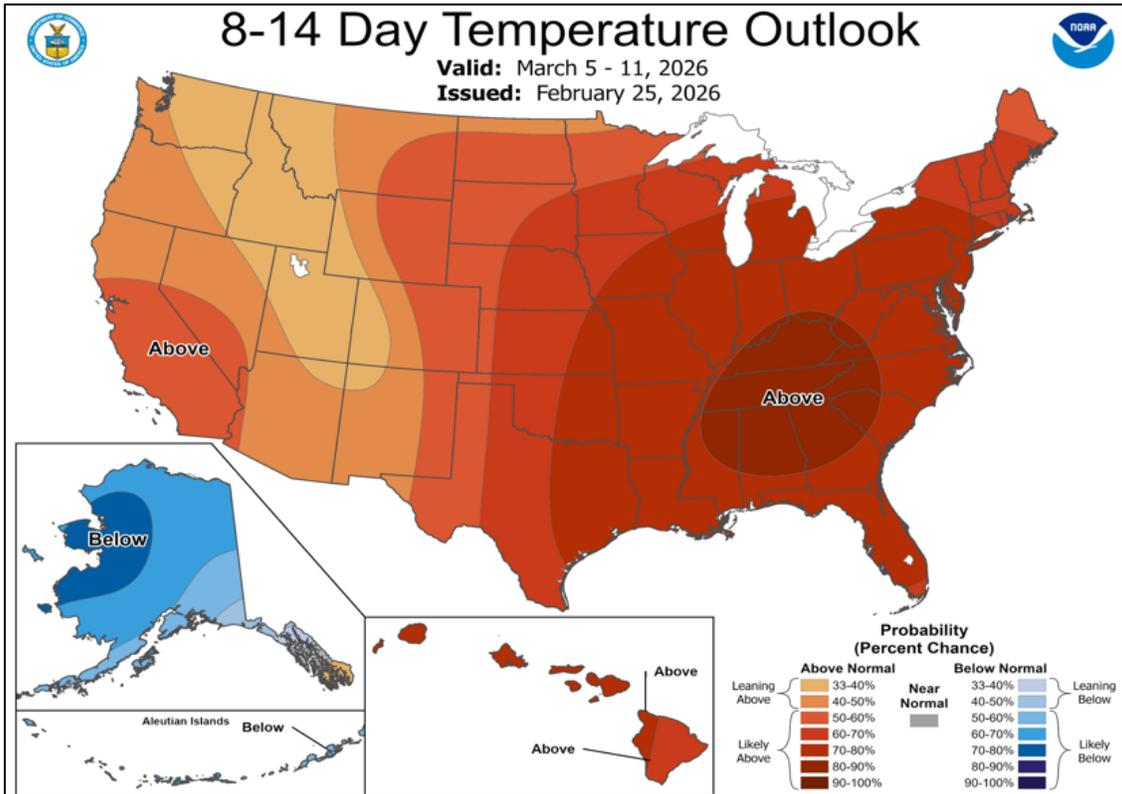
based on $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ thresholds in ERSSTv5 Relative Niño-3.4 index



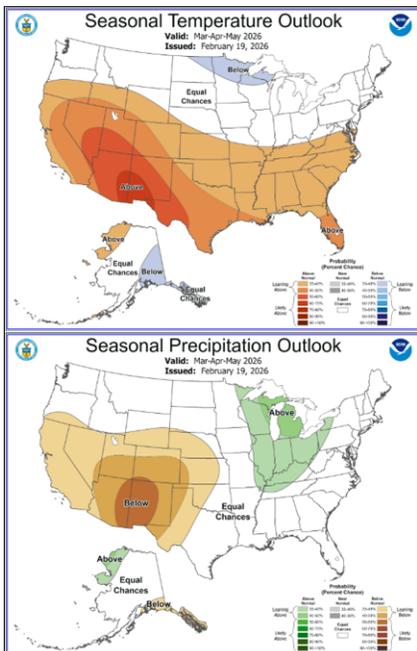
NOAA's Climate Prediction Center El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook calls for the demise of La Niña conditions during spring 2026, with ENSO-neutral conditions likely by early summer. Probabilities for El Niño in red increase during summer, and El Niño is the most likely scenario by July-August-September 2026.

Weather/Climate Outlooks





NOAA is calling for high confidence in above average temperatures during the March 5-11 period across the Southern Area. This expected pattern change may persist much of the month, resulting in unusually warm to record-breaking temperatures across the central and eastern United States. Spring green-up may occur rapidly where rainfall and soil moisture are sufficient.



- NOAA's seasonal outlook from March through May favors warmer than normal temperatures across most of the Southern Area, with the highest probabilities from the Florida peninsula to southern Louisiana and most of Texas
- Above normal rainfall is slightly favored in the Middle Mississippi Valley, with below normal rainfall most likely over western Texas and Oklahoma
- Green-up in the grass-dominated Plains will be dependent on shorter term rainfall and soil moisture trends, with warm soil temperatures favoring green-up or worsening drought resulting in a delay and prolonged fire risks
- A drier than average March in the Southeast could give way to near or even above normal rainfall later in spring; however, widespread, intense drought followed by outbreaks of lightning will be a major concern for spring wildfires in coastal areas, swamps and pocosins until moisture is replenished
- Conditions during summer will be somewhat dependent on how rapidly ENSO transitions towards El Niño, with 2023, 2018, 2009 and 1997 most similar to expected trends this year

Additional short and long-term outlooks from Predictive Services can be referenced at the following links:

[SACC Daily Briefing](#)

[National 7-Day Significant Fire Potential](#)

[NIFC Predictive Services Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Fuels and Fire Danger Conditions

Preceding Fall and Winter Fuels Conditions

Despite elevated fire danger region-wide over most of the winter due to a record dry autumn and deepening drought in the Southern Area, fire activity remained fairly close to normal over much of this past winter aside from an outbreak of large, rapidly spreading fires associated with a wind event in the Southern Great Plains of Texas and Oklahoma in mid-February and a spate of large



Section of hiking trail on the Apalachicola NF that typically requires a boat on a rope to navigate (courtesy of Mike Keys, NFs in Florida)

fires, can cause prolonged duff and muck fires, and hold potential to cause long-term smoke impacts if fire spreads into these typically wet areas. While the panhandle has received some relief recently, most areas from the Ocala National Forest to the Everglades have KBDI levels that at the time of this writing are above 600 and several above 700. It should also be

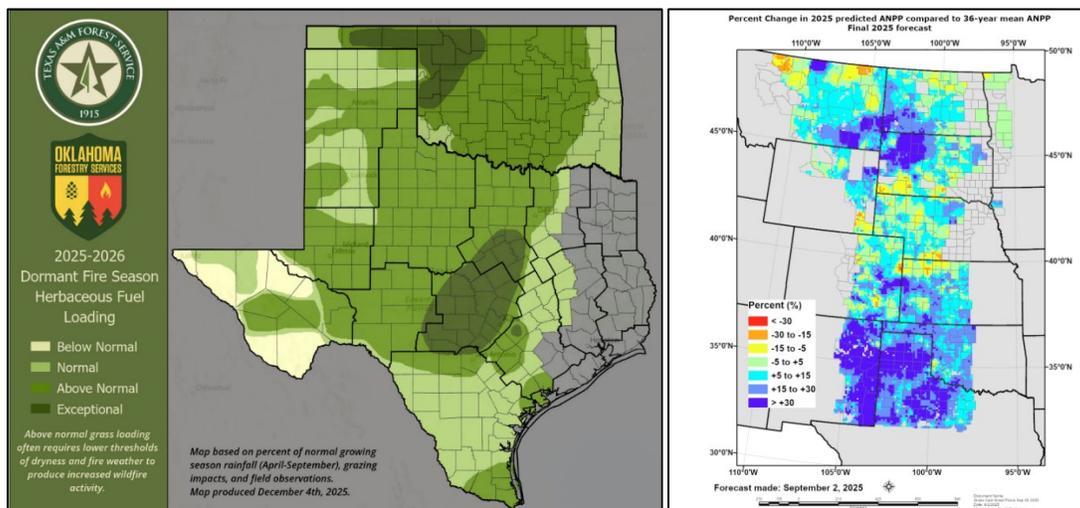
fires which started on February 23rd and are still on-going in South Florida. As drought began to slowly spread across the region beginning in September 2025, National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) indices such as Keetch-Byram Index (KBDI) and Energy Release Component (ERC) began to rise predictably while 100-hr and 1000-hr dead fuel moistures dropped and remained below normal in areas where drought expanded. In the areas with the worst drought impacts across much of Florida and southern Georgia, there are numerous reports of dry swamps, wetlands, floodplains, and similar natural holding features which will no longer hold



Example of above normal grass loading in Texas.

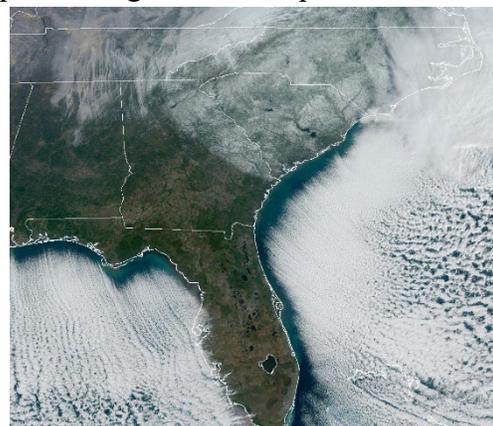
mentioned that areas in southeast Georgia, including the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, are also trending much drier than normal. KBDI levels in or near the Refuge are approximately 200 points above normal for this time of year.

In the Great Plains of Oklahoma and throughout the Plains, Hill Country, Cross Timbers, and Trans-Pecos of Texas, grass loading is estimated to be above normal to exceptional for the 2025-2026 dormant season as illustrated in the figure below. Hundreds of square miles of above normal grass loading exists across the two states and includes vegetation that is both taller in height and much more contiguous than normal. Many of these locations are in areas that have few natural fuel breaks, potentially leading to a situation where fires could have long, unbroken stretches of extremely volatile fuel. Peak spring fire season for this region is typically mid-February through April, or until green-up, so if drought and warm temperatures persist, fire activity and resistance to control will continue to increase with large fire growth associated with pre- or post-frontal wind events.



(Left map) 2025-2026 dormant fire season fuel loading map based percent of normal growing season rainfall, grazing impacts, and field observations (produced 12/04/2026 by Texas A&M Forest Service and Oklahoma Forestry Services). (Right map) Percent change in grassland production forecast for summer 2025 compared to the 36-year average (forecast made on September 2, 2025 by Grass-Cast).

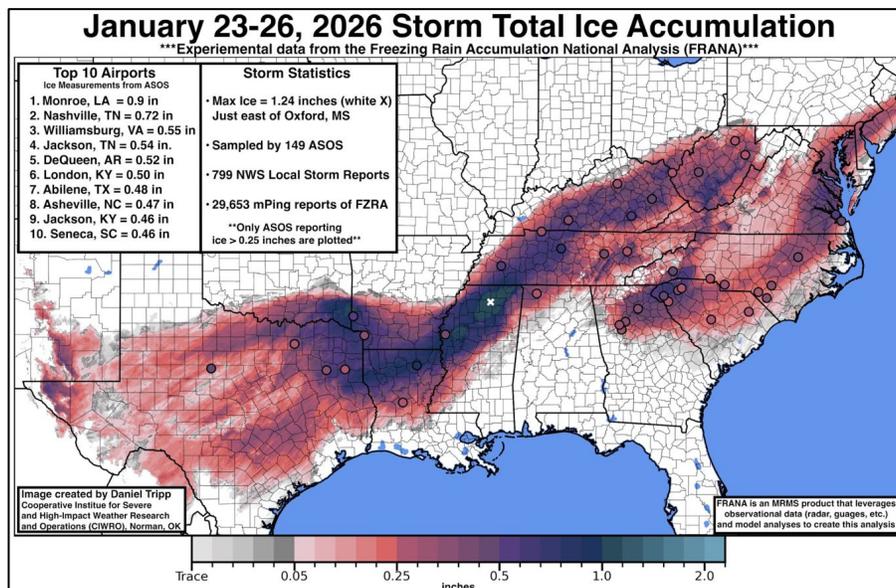
Cooler temperatures associated with arctic air masses penetrating into the deep south in January and February moderated fire danger indices, particularly in the Southern Apps where snow and/or cold temps continue to subdue fire danger and KBDIs remain low. However, winter storms associated with these cold snaps in other parts of the GACC have caused variable and uncertain impacts on fuels which remain to be seen. The epic ice storm that impacted a broad swath of the western Coastal Plain and into Tennessee and Virginia in late January resulted in a swath of broken tree canopies and limbs which will add to coarse woody debris fuel loading and open the canopy in these areas to an



Snow cover across the Carolinas in late January

increase in solar radiation and wind influence this spring. The damage included both hardwood and pine timber types, and in those areas that are pine dominated, an increase in wildfire intensity should be expected, as pine needles will have ample time to dry and become available at some point during the spring season. Access and the ability to navigate fireline construction could also be impacted from the damaged timber.

In what could provide some limited benefit to fire danger and potential, a coastal winter storm in late January that impacted the Carolinas and Virginia, and to a lesser extent the mountains of east Tennessee and northeast Georgia, dumped nearly 2 feet of snow across coastal North Carolina. Greater than 8 inches fell across large portions of the Piedmont regions, and due to unusually cold temperatures, snow cover remained on the ground for several days. Fire managers across the impacted areas have reported heavy snow has compacted litter fuels somewhat, and the expectation is that volatility will be reduced – at least for a time - by the compaction.



Experimental map product predicting total ice accumulation (inches) from Winter Storm Fern in January 2026. Image was created by Daniel Tripp at the Cooperative Institute for Severe and high-Impact Weather Research and Operations (CIWRO), Norman, OK from the Freezing Rain Accumulation National Analysis (FRANA).

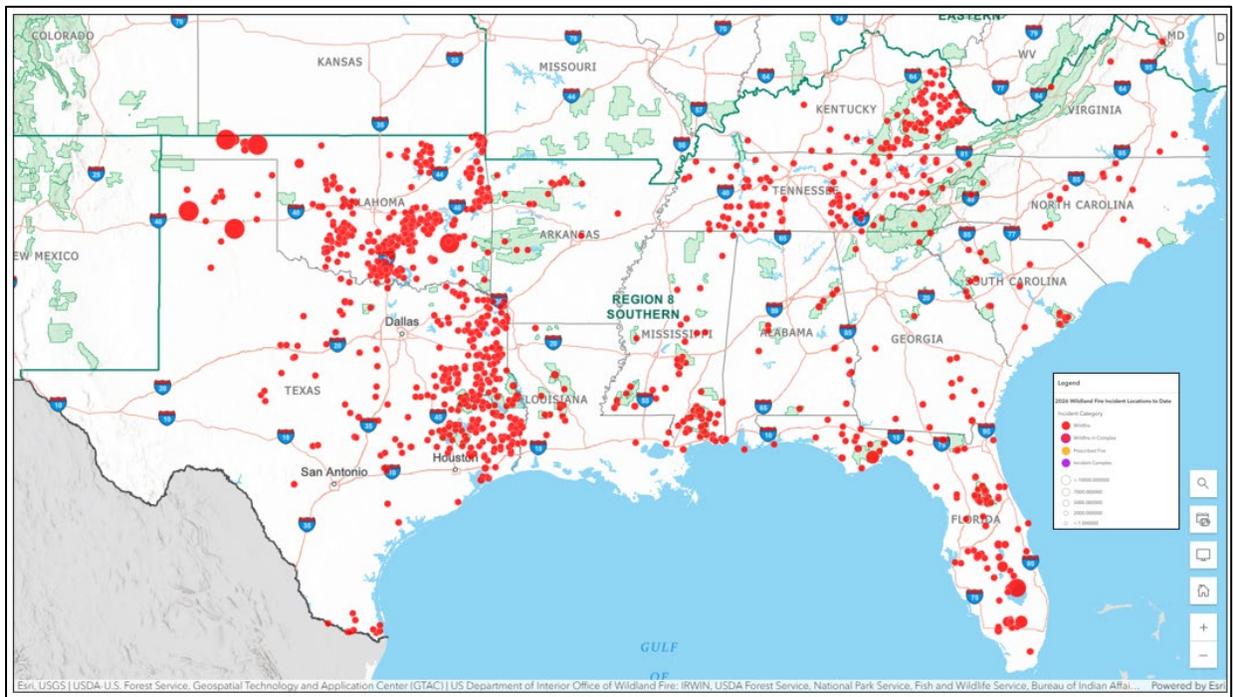
Conversely, ice, snow, and sleet from a winter storm in the Plains of Oklahoma and Texas reportedly compacted abundant grass loading, caused by wetter than normal conditions last growing season (close to 150% of normal loading according to the Rangeland Analysis Platform), which may now require longer drying periods to support a wind-driven fire due to the compaction. As these arctic air masses penetrated deep into South Florida, fuels became frost-cured much further south than in most years. There have been recent reports of dead cabbage palms and the invasive Brazilian pepper tree as far south as the Everglades (photo on right taken from Naples Daily News on Feb 6, 2026).



Winter Wildfire Activity

The map below represents wildfire occurrence across the Southern Area since January 1, 2026 based on fire occurrence data from the Wildland Fire Interagency Geospatial Services (WFIGS) hosted in NIFC ArcGIS Online (AGOL). This service contains all wildland fire incidents from the Integrated Reporting of Wildland Fire Information (IRWIN) only, so it does not account for state and other fires not reported in IRWIN. These data account for both fire occurrence and fire size, so larger circles in the map represent larger wildfires with largest circles greater than 10,000 acres in size.

According to the North American Seasonal Wildland Fire Assessment and Outlook from NIFC Predictive Services for February – May 2026 (issued February 13, 2026), “In the U.S., fire activity remained at low levels nationwide through January, with a modest increase in activity in early February. The increase in activity was primarily focused in the Southwest and Southern Areas, with Florida showing the most substantial increase in activity.” The outlook goes on to state that, “Human-caused wildfires have already been increasing because of the drought and increased debris burning, and the addition of lightning ignitions amid warmer temperatures could make for a very busy few months across Florida, South Georgia, and the Carolina pocosins.”



Fire activity has increased in the latter half of February for most of the Southern Area, but particularly due to a wildfire outbreak in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles on February 17th in which there was large rapid growth on multiple fires associated with a pre-frontal wind event which then continued to cause

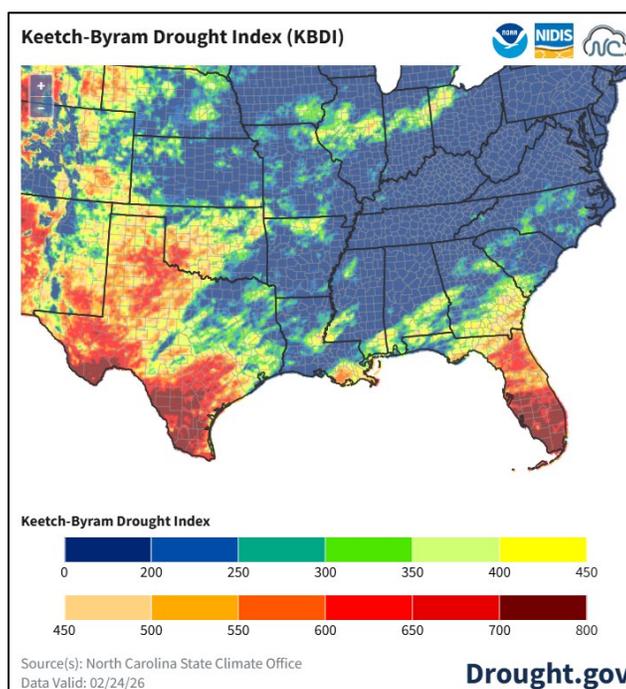
containment issues after the front passed. Most notably, the Ranger Road fire in Oklahoma spread 28 miles and consumed 145,000 acres in a single operational period. This past week on February 22nd, there was a similar wind-driven wildfire outbreak in South Florida in which the National fire spread 5 miles and grew to 13,000 acres in a single operational period.



View of the National Fire in Big Cypress NP from February 24th Florida DOT camera.

Current Conditions

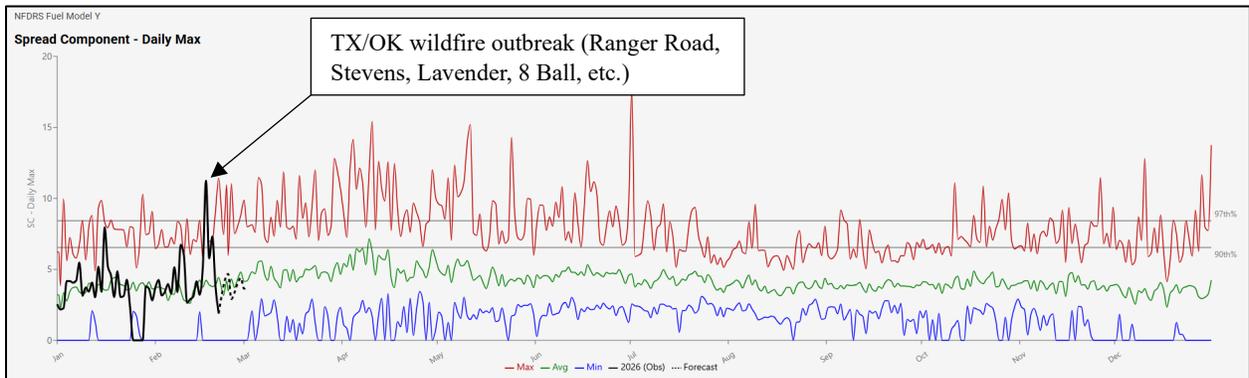
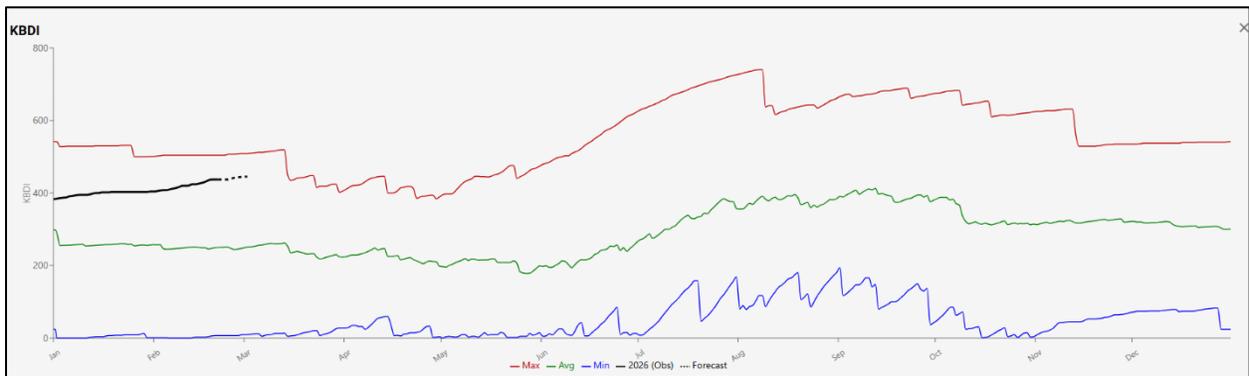
Approximately 75% of the Southern Area is currently in D0 drought or above, but NFDRS indices have been variable across the region and not consistently aligned with the U.S. Drought Monitor. In most areas outside of Texas, Oklahoma, and Florida, KBDI is deceptively low despite higher ERC values and an increase in recent fire activity in some areas. ERCs are currently highest in the western portion of the GACC due to on-going drought and recent warm temps, while the eastern portion of the GACC generally displays lower ERCs due to lower temps and recent precipitation. 100-hr fuel moistures, although extremely low in Texas, Oklahoma, and northwest Arkansas, do not appear to be as critically low throughout the rest of the Southern Area despite persistent regional drought since last September. ERCs and KBDI will begin to rapidly increase, and 100-hr fuel moisture will rapidly decrease, due to evapotranspiration as green-up occurs over the next few weeks if warm and dry conditions persist or develop. Rapid green-up will compound stress on live fuels and exacerbate drought impacts, particularly in swamps, wetlands, and other low-lying areas which may no longer serve as reliable natural holding features. Fire managers should be prepared for long-term duff and muck fires and prolonged smoke impacts should wildfire become established in these typically wet areas.



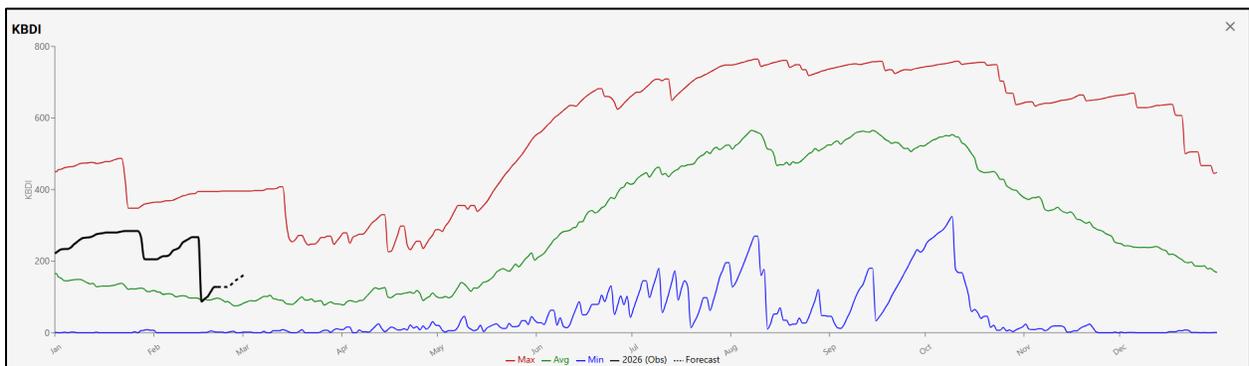
KBDIs across the Southern Area as of February 24, 2026 (Source: North Carolina State Climate Office on Drought.gov. <https://www.drought.gov/data-maps-tools/keetch-byram-drought-index-kbdi-north-carolina-state-climate-office>)

On February 21, 2026, an update to NIFC servers caused a temporary outage of Wxx-Weather which left a data gap in the Fire Environment Mapping System (FEMS). It will take a week or more for the gap-filling and conditioning process to smooth out, so caution should be used in relying on FEMS products for the few days to a week following the gap-filling process. Due to this data gap, we did not include climatology graphs in this assessment for most NFDRS indices or timelag fuel moisture trends. However, select KBDI graphs are presented here from hotspots throughout the region to show the trends in KBDI since the beginning of the calendar year. Spread component is also provided here for Cheyenne RAWS in western Oklahoma to show how spread component correlated with the wildfire outbreak in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles in mid-February. ***It is important to note that readers should ignore the forecast data represented by the dotted line in the graphs below due to the current FEMS data gap.***

Cheyenne RAWS (343301) – Western Oklahoma



Oden RAWS (343301) – Ouachita NF, Arkansas



Black Creek RAWS – DeSoto NF, Mississippi

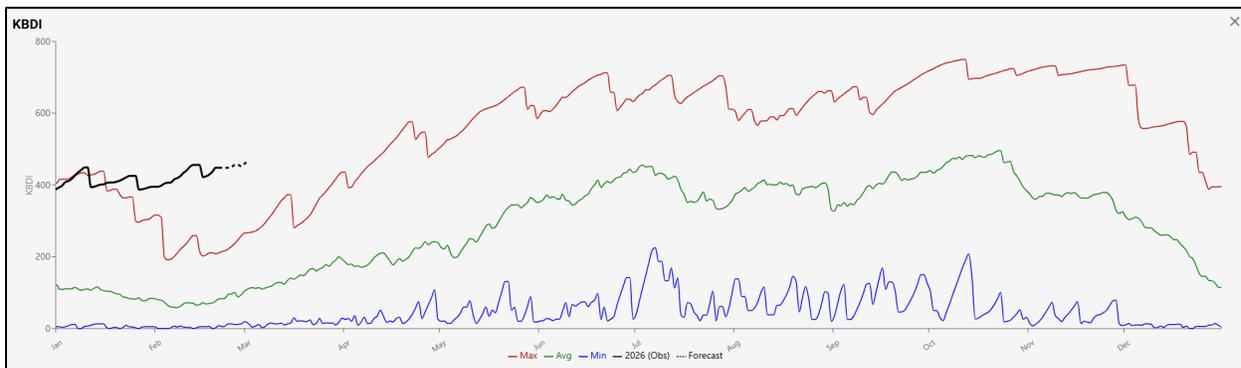
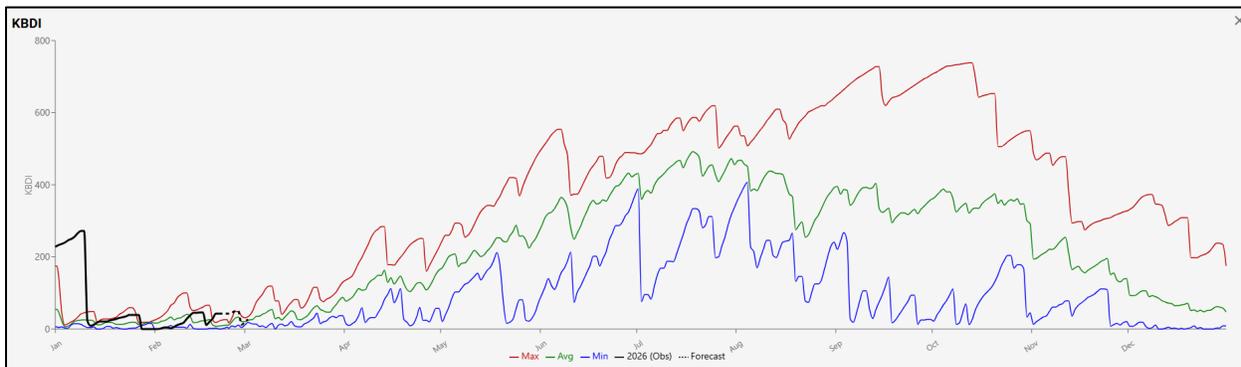
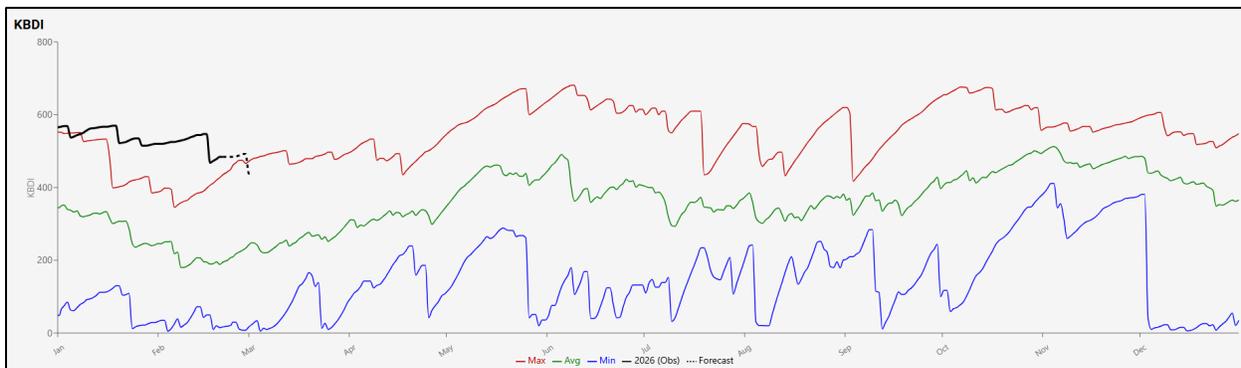


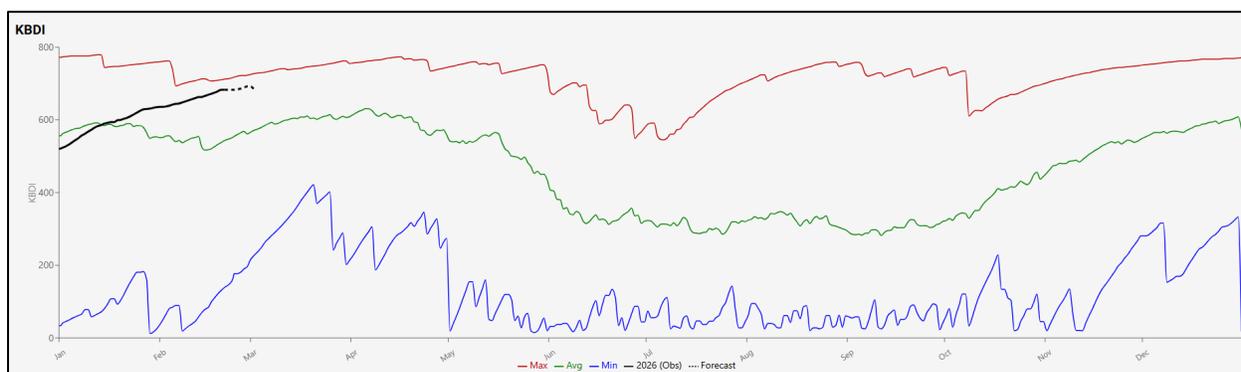
Table Rock RAWS – South Carolina



OKE-NW – Okefenokee NWR, Georgia

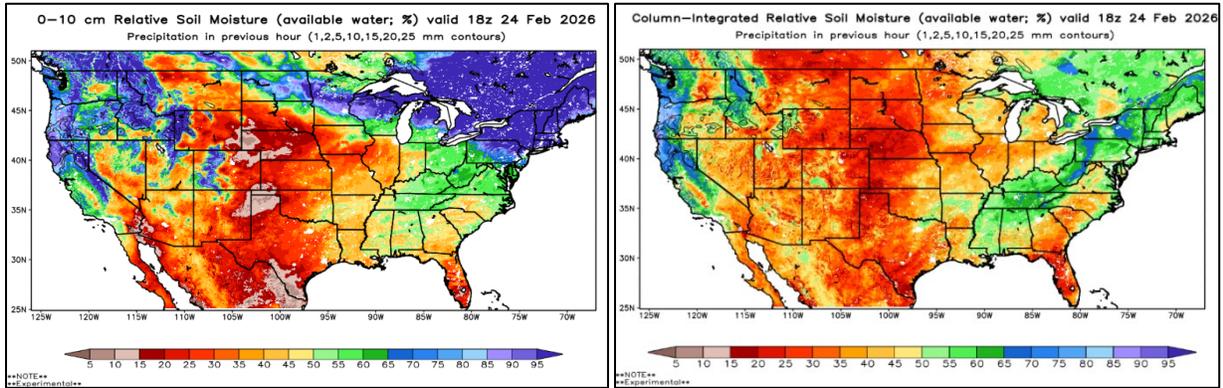


Raccoon Point RAWS – Big Cypress NP, Florida



Due to the combined impacts of deepening drought, high grass loading in the Plains, dry swamps in Florida/Georgia and a series of impactful winter storms, the areas within the region with the largest current fire danger concerns are the Southern Great Plains of Texas and Oklahoma as well as most of Florida and southern portions of Georgia. RAWS in western Oklahoma and parts of the Texas Panhandle are showing KBDIs in the 400 – 650 rang, while OKE-NW RAWS in Okefenokee NWR in Georgia is showing KBDIs in the lower 500s, which is unseasonably high for southern Georgia. Raccoon Point RAWS in South Florida shows KBDI hovering in the mid-700s. However, there are indicators of deteriorating conditions coming into spring throughout other parts of the region as well. For example, KBDI values at Oden RAWS in Arkansas and Table Rock RAWS in the Southern Apps of South Carolina are moderate, but Black Creek RAWS on the DeSoto NF in Mississippi which is experiencing off-the-chart KBDI values for this time of year at around 400.

To gain a sense of underlying drought beyond what we can glean from NFDRS indices like KBDI and ERC, it is instructive to examine soil moisture satellite products from NASA and the National Drought Mitigation Center’s (NDMC) soil moisture models. The NASA SPoRT-LIS Relative Soil Moisture (RSM) product offers information about the soil saturation state as a ratio of the volumetric soil moisture between the wilting and saturation points for a given soil type and is expressed as a percentage. SPoRT-LIS provides relative soil moisture % at 0-10 cm, 10-40 cm, 40-100 cm, and 100-200 cm or at any of these depths all the way through the soil moisture column (i.e., 0-100 cm, 0-200 cm, etc.). The 0-10 c, RSM product is useful for assessing shallow surface moisture conditions, while 0-200 cm RSM (also known as “Column-Integrated RSM”) strikes a balance between assessing long-term drought from moisture levels lower in the soil column while incorporating the shallower surface layers in assessing drought.

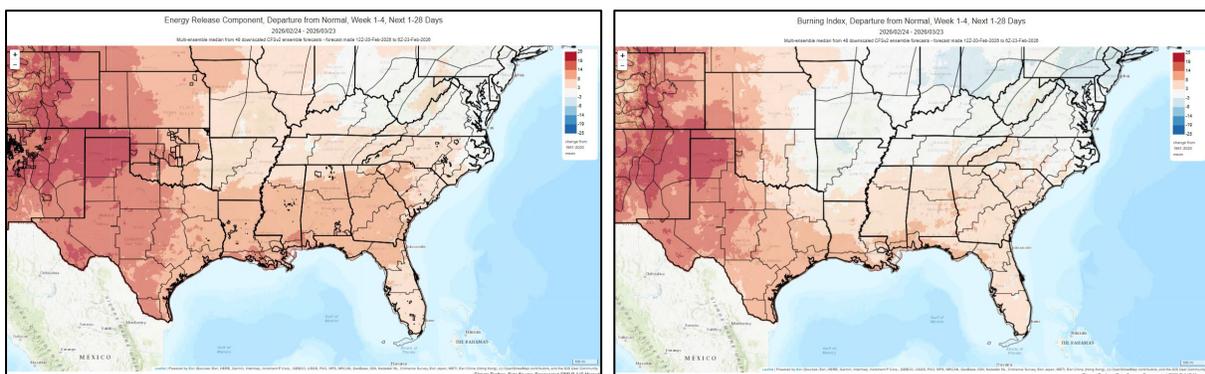


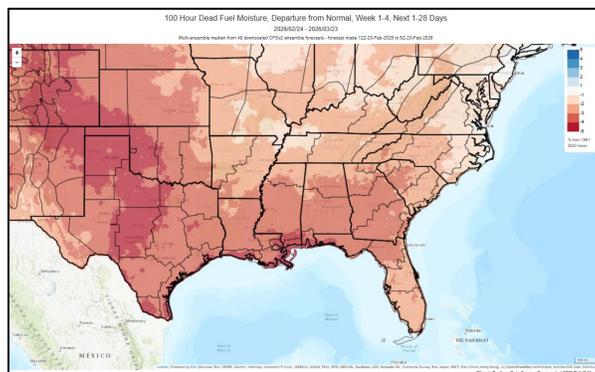
0-10 Root Soil Moisture (%) and 0-200 "Column-Integrated" Root Soil Moisture (%) as of February 24, 2026 from NASA SPoRT-LIS. https://weather.ndc.nasa.gov/sport/viewer/?dataset=lis_conus&product=rsoim0-100

Both the 0-10 cm and 0-200 cm Column-Integrated RSM products for February 24th display similar regional patterns of drought conditions to KBDI with areas in Texas and Oklahoma with 0-10 cm RSM as low as 10-15% and values of 20-25% in South Florida.

Spring Fuels Condition Outlook

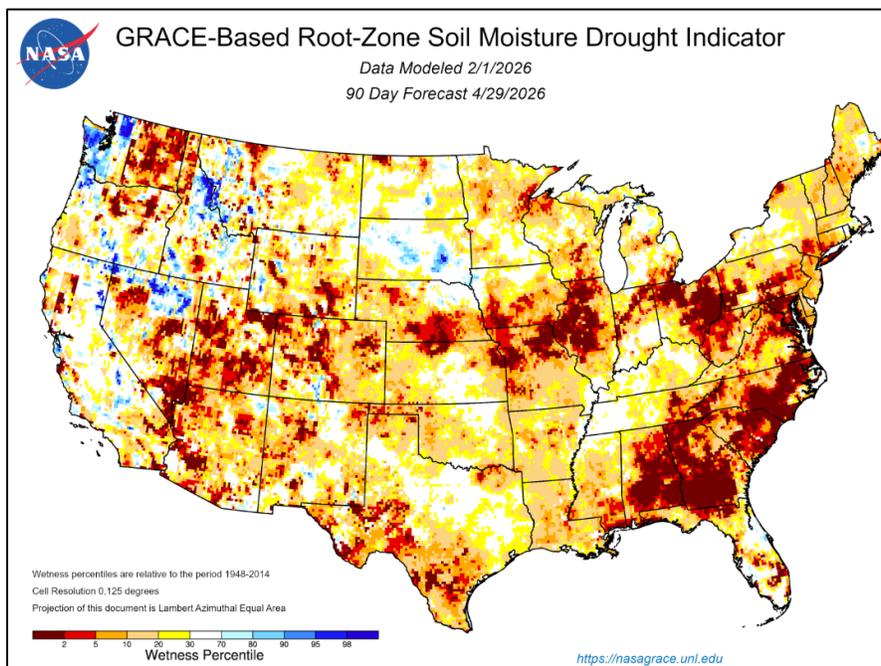
There are a few products that provide experimental NFDRS or soil moisture forecasts for this spring. Climate Mapper (<https://climatetoolbox.org/tool/climate-mapper>) provides weekly forecasts out to 28 days for ERC, Burning Index (BI), and 100-hr fuel moisture departure from normal based on 48 downscaled CFSv2 ensemble forecasts. Based on these forecasts displayed in the ERC maps below, a pattern emerges of further deterioration in fuel conditions in the western portion of the GACC with the most acute impacts in the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles over the next month. ERC and 100-hr fuel moisture forecasts also highlight widespread areas of above average ERC, with lower than normal 100-hr fuel moistures, across the Southeast with the greatest departures forecast in the Coastal Plains and Piedmont. There is also a small area of extreme ERC and 100-hr FM departure, similar to Oklahoma and Texas, in coastal Louisiana and Mississippi.





Experimental energy release component, burning index, and 100-hr dead fuel moisture departure from normal over the next 4 weeks (28 days) from Climate Mapper based on multi-ensemble median from 48 downscaled CFSv2 ensemble forecasts for 02/24/2026 – 03/23/2026. (<https://climatetoolbox.org/tool/climate-mapper>).

The NASA Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) soil moisture products are based on a combination of a paired satellite system which detects water re-distribution at the land surface paired with long-term meteorological dataset to generate a continuous record of soil moisture and groundwater back to 1948. Using the GRACE-FO based moisture conditions as a starting point, NASA GRACE forecast’s groundwater and soil moisture wetness or drought 1, 2, and 3 months into the future. The model is driven into the future using downscaled seasonal meteorological forecasts from NASA’s GEOS-5 Earth system model. The resulting forecast maps describe wetness/drought conditions, expressed as a percentile showing the probability of occurrence within the period 1948-2014, with lower values (warm colors) meaning dryer than normal, and higher values (blues) meaning wetter than normal.



NASA GRACE Root-Zone Soil Moisture Drought Indicator 90-day forecast as of 02/02/2026.

Although slightly dated based on a February 1, 2026 forecast, this 90-day forecast of root-zone soil moisture ending on April 29, 2026 indicates relative improvement in available soil moisture conditions in

the Great Plains of Texas and Oklahoma, lingering drought in portions of South Texas and the Trans-Pecos area, and worsening drought conditions in most of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and into Virginia. Drought also shows improvement in much of Florida aside from some patches in South Florida and North Florida near Osceola NF.

Special Considerations for Hurricane Helene-Impacted Areas

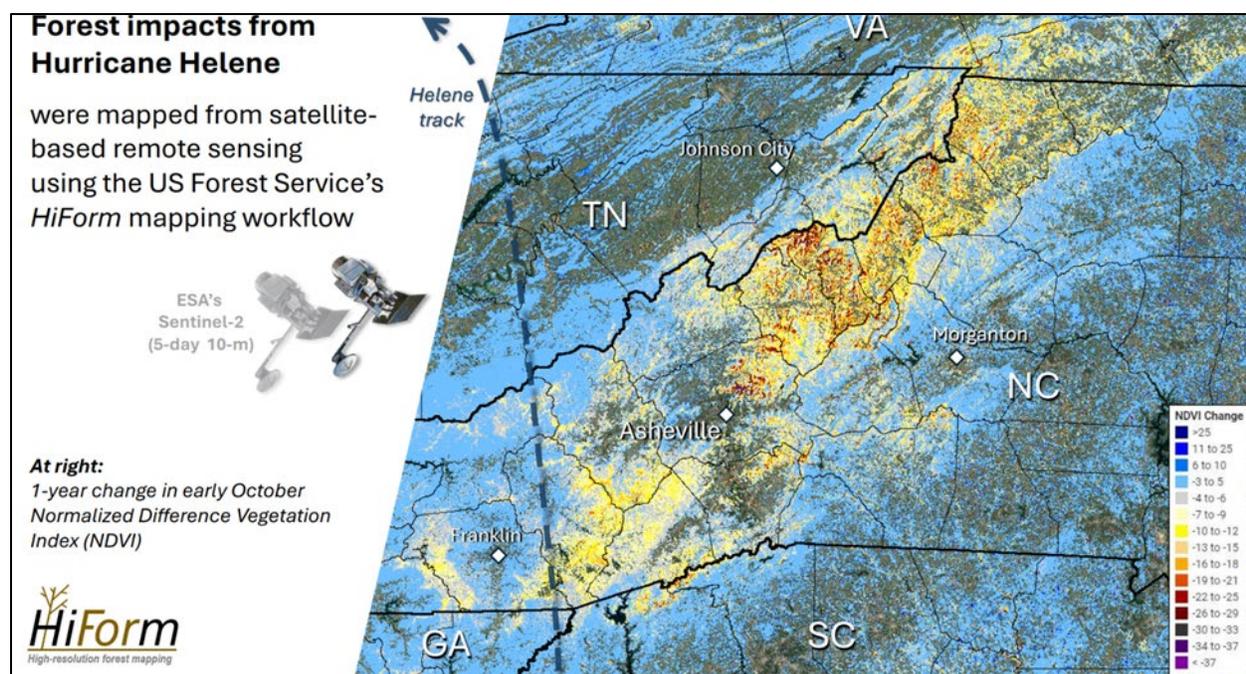
It has been about 18 months since Hurricane Helene made landfall and blazed a path of destruction from Florida up through Georgia and South Carolina and into the Southern Apps. Over the past 18 months, 1- hour 10-hour, and some 100-hour fuels from vegetation impacted by this disturbance have likely become fully cured, while 1000-hour fuels are beginning to cure, and in some cases, the outer bark and cambium are becoming available to burn. Thus far, Helene fuels have posed a greater *potential* problem than *realized* problem. Random fires have occurred in Helene damaged areas that did increase intensity and complicated firefighting logistics, but widespread catastrophic results have not yet occurred. It is important to stress the continued fire danger from Helene fuels, and an alignment of the right weather conditions and fire occurrence in these fuels could pose challenging to potentially catastrophic fire intensity. While rates of spread would typically be less in heavy downed timber than in open litter fuels, the intensity and resistance to control would be much greater. Smoke production would be significantly increased, and access limitations that would likely necessitate much larger fire footprints should be planned for.

Structurally, the open canopy conditions over large areas of tree blowdown have exposed fuels to increased sunlight and reduced wind drag and have begun releasing the mountain laurel and rhododendron understory. Although the remaining overstory and midstory in many of the impacted stands have begun to recover canopy biomass, many of these impacted areas will not have a full canopy to shade surface fuels and moderate the drying influences of sun and wind as leaf-on occurs this coming growing season. As fuels continue to decompose and become more available, there will be an increased risk of higher flame lengths, increased fire line intensities, and short to medium range spot fires from damaged fuels. Under moist conditions, the larger tree boles laying on the ground break up fine fuel continuity and may continue to impede fire spread until these heavier fuels become more available. There have also been multiple reports of standing eastern hemlocks with broken crowns causing spot fires over creeks and riparian areas which used to hold fire, so crews should patrol creek boundaries for snags and slopovers when using these features as natural firebreaks. The extreme winds from Helene caused the bark to become looser and flakier in many hemlocks facilitating fire spread into tree crowns and leading to increased spotting potential.

Firefighters should be aware of these changes to fuels, how fuels may respond under drier conditions, and the safety watchouts associated with degraded ingress/egress, snag hazards, fire behavior, and overall response. In many cases, wildfire suppression operations will need to be adjusted to consider more indirect attack strategies, use of larger heavy equipment, safety checklists and briefings, improved personnel accountability, and extended attack due to slowed suppression efforts. Prescribed fire this coming spring in the Helene-impacted area will require burn plan revisions, careful planning, higher burn staffing, and increased consideration of contingency plans. For more in-depth treatment of Helene's impacts to fuels and fire behavior, as well as recommendations for adjusting fire management operations to mitigate safety

concerns, refer to [Fuels and Fire Management Considerations for Hurricane Helene Damaged Areas](#) and [Post-Hurricane Fuels and Suppression Considerations Bulletin](#) produced by USFS Region 8 Fire and Aviation Management and hosted on the Southern Fire Exchange website: [Resources for Understanding Hurricane Impacts on Prescribed Fire and Wildfire](#)

The following map produced by Steve Norman at Southern Research Center Eastern Forest Threat Assessment Center (EFETAC) displays the Hurricane Helene impact area across the Southern Appalachians estimated from HiForm Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) pre- and post-Helene change detection. EFETAC continues to provide updated and improved Hurricane Helene spatial change detection products as additional remote sensing imagery is acquired. Current and future updated HiForm spatial data products, including links to data in AGOL, can be found on the HiForm website: <https://hiform.org/projects/2024-hurricane-helene-southern-appalachians>

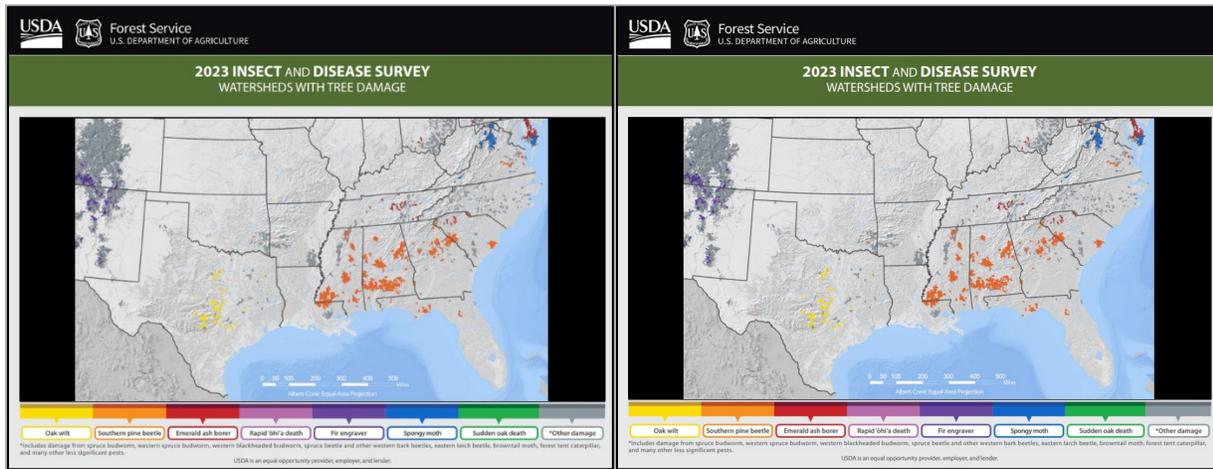


LANDFIRE released their disturbance and fuel model product updates for 2024 at the end of September 2025. These updates include spatial representation of the estimated Hurricane Helene disturbance footprint in Southern Appalachia from EFETAC's HiForm change detection product and fuel model crosswalks to represent slash and blowdown fuel models in impacted areas. These LANDFIRE products, updated for 2024, can be found on the [LANDFIRE website](#) and a description of LANDFIRE's process for producing preliminary Hurricane Helene disturbance products can be found at [LANDFIRE Hurricane Helene Preliminary Disturbance Mapping](#).

Insect-Impacted Fuels

Another on-going concern that remains is the legacy of pine beetle infestations across parts of the Gulf States. These infestations of Ips and Southern Pine Beetle have left behind large amounts of standing dead timber, which serve as potent fuel sources for fires. Line production rates and overall suppression difficulty should be expected to increase considerably in areas with

large amounts of available and standing dead fuel, and spotting from copious dead snags is a major concern.

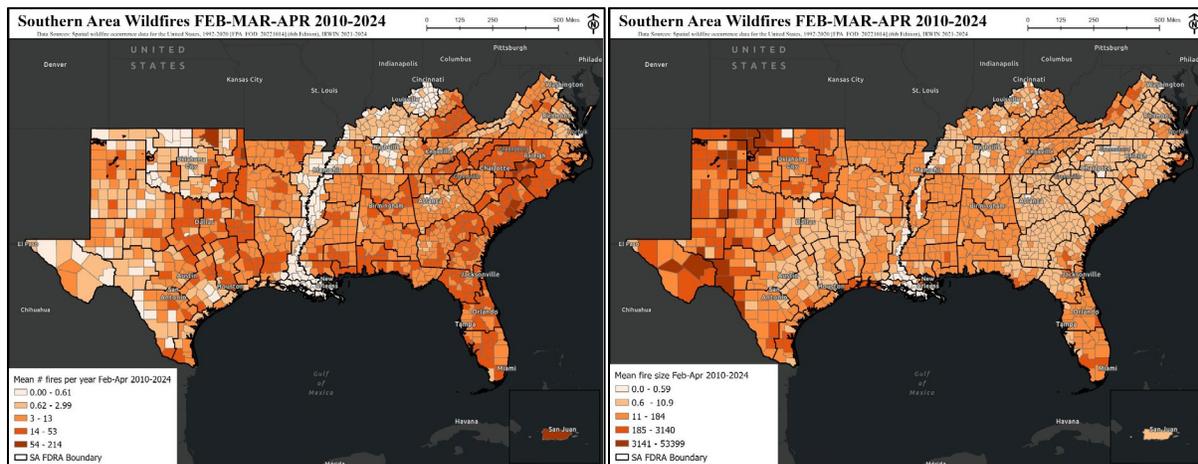


U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection insect and disease survey maps for 2023 and 2024 showing widespread southern pine beetle impacts across the Gulf Coast states, emerald ash borer in the Southern Apps, and spongy moth damage in Virginia (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/data-tools-products/fhp-mapping-reporting/detection-surveys>).

Appendix A. Historic Spring Fire Occurrence

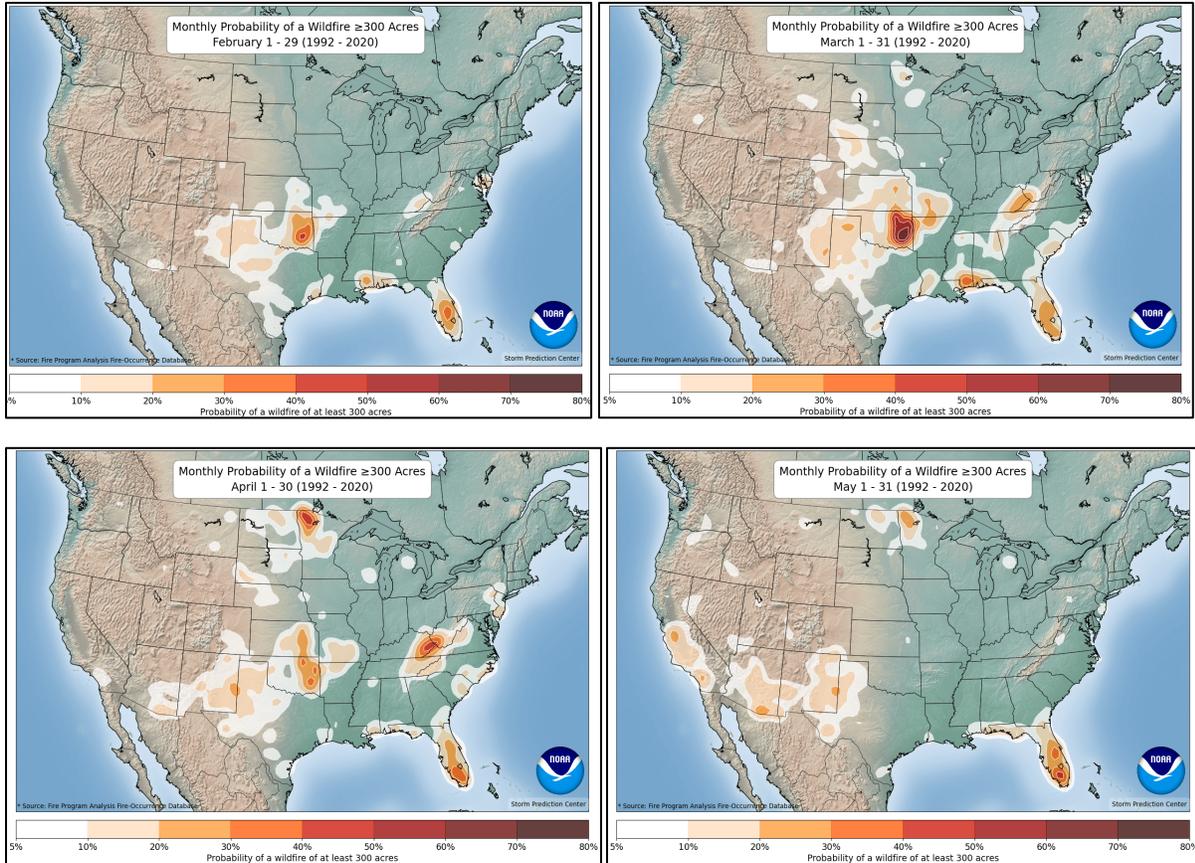
Historic Seasonal Wildfire Activity

Using a combined FOD 6th edition and IRWIN dataset, all wildfires during FEB-APR 2010-2024 (“Spring season”) were aggregated by county and analyzed according to mean number of fires per Spring season by county and mean fire size during Spring season by county and (see figures below, analysis courtesy of Fire Planner/Analyst Mike Keys with NFs in Florida).



Similar to the map above, the following maps from the NOAA Storm Prediction Center display the probability of a wildfire ≥ 300 acres by month for February - April (1992-2020 period of record). Historically, spring wildfire activity in the Southern Area begins with increased potential in the Southern Great Plains of Texas and Oklahoma, with an area of highest probability in eastern Oklahoma, as well as South Florida, coastal Louisiana/Alabama and slight uptick in the Southern Apps. Wildfire occurrence increases in the Southern Apps with the onset of warmer

temps in March and into April until green-up and leaf-on conditions shade surface fuels typically in May. Elsewhere in March, fire occurrence expands in the Great Plains, the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts, northern Alabama/Georgia, and persists in Florida. By April, fire activity typically slows down in Texas and Oklahoma as green-up sets in, while the fire season tends to peak in the Southern Apps and persists in Florida and Coastal Plains.



Monthly wildfire occurrence hotspot maps for fires greater than or equal to 300 acres in size within 25 miles. Fire severity can not be inferred from this analysis (based on 1992-2020 FPA-FOD data) provided by the NOAA Storm Prediction Center (<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/new/FWclimo/climo.php?parm=300ac>).

As green-up continues in the Great Plains, fire occurrence continues to diminish there in May while peaking in South Florida ahead of the summer wet season that typically starts in June. Fire occurrence across the rest of the region tends to diminish in May aside from portions of the Gulf Coastal Plain from Florida to Mississippi as convection thunderstorm patterns bring rain and West Texas if summer rains don't develop and fuels begin to cure.

Appendix B. Critical Fire Weather and Environmental Conditions

The four critical weather elements that produce extreme fire behavior are **low relative humidity, strong surface wind, unstable air, and drought**. The critical fire weather patterns that support these conditions can be separated into two primary categories: those that produce strong surface winds, and those that produce atmospheric instability. In both cases, an unusually dry air mass for the region and season must also occur. In brush and timber fuels, drought becomes an important precursor by increasing fuel availability. It's necessary for firefighters to recognize the

conditions that contribute to large fire growth because critical fire weather patterns may not be identified by name in the weather forecast.

Drought

Wildfires are complex events and influenced by multiple factors, including weather, fuel availability, and topography. However, one of the most critical drivers of wildfire behavior is drought. Drought affects the moisture content of dead fuel, live vegetation, and soil making the landscape more susceptible to ignition and more challenging to control once a fire begins. This relationship between drought and wildfire danger is particularly important for fire managers, as it can inform fire preparedness, response strategies, and resource allocation.

Because drought can significantly alter the fire environment, monitoring drought conditions is an essential part of fire management. Drought indices provide a quantitative way to assess drought severity, helping fire managers anticipate potential fire risks and allocate resources accordingly. However, not all drought indices are created equal, and understanding their specific applications is critical for accurate fire prediction.

Key Drought Indicators

There are two classes of drought indices, Timescale Aggregated and Point-in-Time, represent different approaches to understanding drought conditions based on temporal flexibility. Timescale aggregated indices, such as the Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI) and Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI), allow for analysis over different periods (e.g., weeks to months), offering insights into how short- and long-term conditions develop and evolve. These indices are particularly useful for monitoring trends over time, such as identifying "flash droughts" or prolonged dry spells that may impact wildfire risk, agriculture, or water resources differently based on the duration of drought stress. In contrast, point-in-time indices, like the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM), provide a snapshot of drought conditions at a specific moment, combining multiple data sources for a comprehensive current assessment. The time scale of an index is crucial, as short-term indicators can signal emerging risks like wildfire danger, while longer-term averages may highlight broader, more persistent drought patterns that influence long-term planning. Understanding the appropriate timeframe for each index helps tailor drought assessments to specific risks and decision-making needs.

Timescale Aggregated

1. Precipitation Anomalies – Percent of Normal

- a. Lack of rainfall and days since rain are proven indicators of fire danger.
- b. Season and other factors are needed to interpret the impact of rainfall deficits or percent of normal.
- c. Rainfall deficit amounts can provide perspective and provide how much precipitation is required to return to normal.

2. Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)

- a. Evaluates precipitation deficits over various time scales.
- b. Where SPI considers precipitation only, SPEI or Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index is precipitation minus potential evaporation.

3. Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)

- a. Measures atmospheric moisture demand or thirst of the atmosphere rather than rainfall.
- b. Useful for detecting flash droughts for early drought warning (2–4-week time frame).

4. Vapor Pressure Deficit (VPD)

- a. Unlike SPEI or EDDI, which rely on precipitation and evapotranspiration balances, VPD is a direct measure of atmospheric dryness representing the difference between saturated and actual water vapor pressure in the air.
- b. VPD is calculated using temperature and humidity.
- c. VPD is a component of the Growing Season Index (GSI).
- d. Captures rapid (days to weeks) fluctuations in the drying power of the atmosphere.
- e. High VPD accelerates fuel moisture loss, increasing fire risk.

Point-in-Time indicators

5. Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

- a. Estimates soil moisture depletion and fire risk.
- b. Responsive to precipitation and temperature changes.
- c. Best for near-term fire monitoring (1-2 weeks).

6. Energy Release Component (ERC)

- a. Tracks potential fire intensity based on long-term drying.
- b. Slow to change but highly indicative of fire season severity.
- c. The ERC percentiles are used as a fire danger threshold. ERC values are relative to a particular location, and the same value can mean something different in each FDRA

7. 100- and 1000-Hour Fuel Moisture

- a. Measures how available fuels are to burn.
- b. Critical fuel moisture values can vary across the region. They're often identified on pocket cards issued for each fire danger rating area (FDRA).

8. U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM)

- a. Provides a broad drought classification.
- b. Useful for long-term strategic planning.

9. Soil Moisture

- a. Satellite-based soil moisture monitoring.
- b. Helps assess near-surface moisture availability

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)** and the **U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM)** serve different purposes and operate on different timescales, which can lead to divergence, particularly in the winter months in the South. **KBDI is a short-term fire risk indicator**, measuring **surface soil moisture depletion** and its impact on wildfire potential. It responds quickly to **rainfall and temperature changes**, meaning that a single heavy rain event or a period of cool, wet weather can significantly reduce KBDI values in a matter of **days to weeks**. However, this drop does not necessarily mean that deeper moisture reserves have recovered.

In contrast, **the U.S. Drought Monitor captures long-term hydrological and ecological drought conditions**, incorporating **precipitation trends over months to years, streamflow,**

groundwater levels, and soil moisture at deeper depths. Even if KBDI decreases due to short-term rain, **long-term drought conditions can persist**, keeping an area classified under **moderate to severe drought (D1–D4)**. This is especially true if the preceding months were drier than normal, and deeper moisture sources—such as **subsurface soil layers and groundwater**—have not fully recharged.

The key difference in **temporal recovery** is that **KBDI can return to low levels in weeks** with consistent rain, whereas **the U.S. Drought Monitor may take months or even years** to fully reflect recovery, especially after extended dry periods. This seasonal discrepancy is common in the Southeast, where winter rainfall can temporarily lower KBDI but may not fully erase long-term drought deficits. As temperatures rise in spring and evapotranspiration increases, **KBDI can rapidly climb again**, often aligning more closely with the Drought Monitor’s long-term drought classifications. This highlights the importance of using both indices together—KBDI for **short-term fire risk** and USDM for **long-term drought monitoring**—to gain a full picture of drought and wildfire potential

Critical Wind Events

Dry Cold Fronts and Post-Frontal Winds

One of the most dangerous fire weather scenarios in the Southeast occurs after the passage of a dry cold front. These fronts, which are most common in March and April, can bring strong, gusty winds (15–25 mph, gusts of 30–40 mph) and very low humidity (as low as 8–15%). These conditions rapidly dry fuels, particularly hardwood leaf litter, increasing wildfire potential.

1. How It Develops:

- a. A cold front moves through the region, displacing warm, humid air.
- b. Instead of bringing rain, the front is followed by a surge of dry, polar air with strong northwesterly or westerly winds.
- c. Relative humidity drops significantly, sometimes staying below 20% for multiple days.

2. Fire Behavior Impact:

- a. Rapid drying of 10-hour fuels (small branches and leaf litter) to critically low moisture levels (3–5%).
- b. Increased spotting potential and extreme fire spread due to strong post-frontal winds.
- c. A period of elevated fire danger for 24–36 hours, with lingering dryness for 4–5 days.

Upper Ridge Breakdown and Pre-Frontal Warming

Another key fire weather pattern in the Southeast involves the breakdown of an upper-level ridge, which progresses through three stages:

1. **Pre-frontal warming:** Sunny, warm, and breezy conditions lead to very low relative humidity and fuel drying.
2. **Strong winds ahead of the front:** Winds increase significantly, enhancing fire spread potential.

3. **Cold front passage:** This can be dry or produce little precipitation, failing to alleviate fire danger.

Fire activity in the Southeast often peaks during or after the third stage, when post-frontal instability, gusty winds, and low humidity combine to create critical fire conditions.

Thunderstorm Outflows and Downbursts

Springtime thunderstorms, even those that do not directly produce rainfall at the surface, can pose sudden wildfire hazards through outflow winds and downbursts. These phenomena can:

- Rapidly change wind direction and speed, making fire behavior unpredictable.
- Cause fire flank runs or sudden shifts that endanger crews and structures.
- Create erratic fire spread over a short time, making initial attack efforts more difficult.

Any precipitation aloft (virga) or nearby thunderstorm activity should be closely monitored, as it may indicate the potential for strong outflow winds near an active fire.

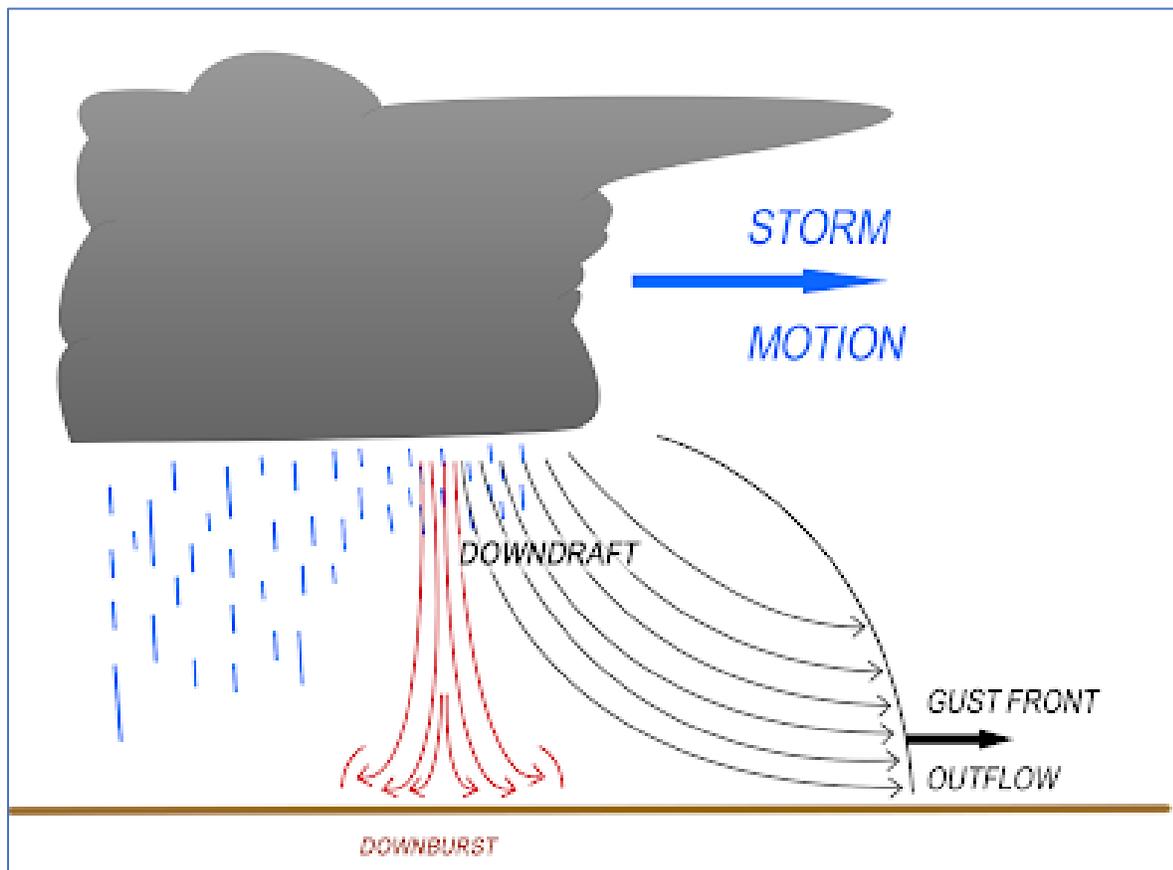


Figure 28: Illustration of wind events associated with thunderstorms

Sea Breeze Fronts and Coastal Fire Behavior

Along coastal areas and near large lakes, sea breezes can create unique fire weather challenges by:

- Bringing gusty, shifting winds as cool marine air pushes inland.
- Lowering humidity levels before the front arrives, increasing fire intensity.
- Occurring during the warmest and driest part of the day, when fuels are most receptive to ignition.

In areas like Florida, where sea breezes can converge from both coasts, complex wind interactions can lead to erratic fire spread and sudden changes in fire intensity.

Hot, Dry, and Unstable Events

Periods of above-normal temperatures, strong surface heating, and atmospheric instability can also contribute to rapid wildfire growth, even without strong winds.

- Key Characteristics:
 - Strong mid-level dry air intrusions, leading to critically low humidity (single digits possible).
 - Formation of heat bubbles, which destabilize the atmosphere and allow surface fires to transition into crown fires.
 - High temperatures combined with deep vertical mixing, leading to unexpectedly high fire intensity and rapid rates of spread.

These conditions are particularly dangerous because fires can exhibit extreme behavior even in the absence of high surface winds.

Tropical Cyclones and Their Adjacent Dry and Breezy Conditions

- **Dual Impact of Tropical Cyclones:** While tropical cyclones are relatively rare in the spring, these storms occasionally occur in late May and June and although they can quickly alleviate drought conditions through heavy rainfall, they can also generate critical fire weather on their periphery. Strong winds, not directly linked to the cyclone's core, often occur between the cyclone and high-pressure systems. As high-pressure systems strengthen in fall, they generate dry air masses, which, combined with subsiding air from cyclones, can create corridors of dry, gusty winds.
- **Subsidence and Fire Risk:** Subsidence, or downward-moving air on the edges of a cyclone, can warm as it descends, further drying the atmosphere. This warming can create localized areas of extreme fire danger, with enhanced winds contributing to faster fire spread. Tropical Storm Harold and Hurricane Idalia demonstrated this effect, leading to enhanced fire weather conditions. Historically, many tropical storms have resulted in similar impacts.

Additional Fire Danger and Fire Weather References

Texas A&M Forest Service

Predictive Services: Offers daily fire danger forecasts, fuel dryness maps, and other predictive services.

[TICC](#)

Texas Fire Potential Update: Provides regular updates on fire potential across the state.
[texas_fire_potential_update.pdf](#)

Oklahoma Forestry Services

Fire Weather and Fuels Conditions: Delivers current fire weather forecasts and fuel condition reports.

[Fire Weather and Fuel Conditions – ODAFF](#)

Oklahoma Mesonet Portal: A collaborative project that offers real-time weather data, including fire weather parameters.

[Home | Mesonet](#)

North Carolina Forest Service

Fire Weather: Provides fire weather forecasts and related information.

[N.C. Forest Service - Fire Weather Reports | NC Agriculture](#)

Fire Weather Intelligence Portal: An interactive platform offering detailed fire weather data.

[Fire Weather Intelligence Portal](#)

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Wildland Fire: Shares information on current wildfires and fire management.

[Florida Forest Service Reporting System](#)

Fire Weather Outlook: Offers forecasts and outlooks pertinent to fire weather conditions.

[Forecasts / Fire Weather / Wildland Fire / Forest & Wildfire / Home - Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services](#)

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Fire and Burning Information: Provides guidelines and information on safe burning practices.

[Fire & Burning - South Carolina Forestry Commission](#)

Current Wildfires: Updates on active wildfires within the state.

[South Carolina Current Wildfires](#)

Mississippi Forestry Commission

Fire Weather: Offers fire weather forecasts and related resources.

[Fire Weather - Mississippi Forestry Commission](#)

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Daily Fire Weather: Provides daily updates on fire weather conditions.

[Fire conditions and burn bans | Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry](#)
[Louisiana Current Wildfires](#)

Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Wildland Fire Management: Shares information on fire management practices and current conditions.

[Wildland Fire Management - Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet](#)

Georgia Forestry Commission

Fire Weather: Provides area-specific fire weather forecasts and related tools.

gatrees.org

Fire Weather Forecast: Offers detailed forecasts and maps for fire weather conditions.

[Fire Weather](#)

Virginia Department of Forestry

Wildfire Information: Shares updates on current fire conditions and safety guidelines.

[Wildfire in Virginia : Virginia Department of Forestry](#)
[Virginia Current Wildfires](#)

Arkansas Department of Agriculture – Forestry Division

Fire Weather: Provides fire weather forecasts and information on current fire danger levels.

[Arkansas Current Wildfires](#)

[Burn Bans, Wildfire Danger & Prescribed Burns : Arkansas Forestry Division](#)

Alabama Forestry Commission

Fire Weather: Offers daily fire weather forecasts and related resources.

[AFC - Burn Weather](#)

[Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

Puerto Rico

National Weather Service

[NWS San Juan Fire WX](#)