Watches and Warnings

- Red Flag Warnings: none
- Fire Weather Watches: none
- Heat Advisories in effect across parts of OK, TX, AR, LA, MS, SC, NC, VA and FL
- Multiple flood hazards in effect across KY and VA, including a Flash Flood Emergency in southeast KY

Today’s Weather Outlook

- A frontal boundary will settle across northwestern parts of the SA today, bringing milder conditions and much-needed rain to the TX/OK panhandles, parts of OK and AR
- Flooding rain will continue to affect portions of KY and TN into the Appalachians and will be possible along the front farther west
- Look for pop-up storms along parts of the Gulf Coast, while most of FL will remain dry
- The Severe Fire Danger Index and current or recent wildfires from NOAA’s Fire Weather Dashboard are plotted; Most of TX will continue to see very hot and dry weather, while hot and dry conditions expand across parts of the MS Valley, Southeast and FL, as well

Estimated Rainfall the Past 48 Hours

- Areas of KY and VA under flash flood warnings and emergencies have seen upwards of 5-10” of rain, most of which has fallen in the past 24 hours
- A broad area of 1-3” of rain has occurred over most of the rest of KY into northern AR, central and southern VA and northern NC, while rainfall has been more localized so far in TX and OK
- Portions of the FL peninsula and southern LA picked up 2-4” of rain, though many areas saw below 1”

Please contact your local National Weather Service office for spot forecasts and the latest watches and warnings.
High Risk (U): very hot, dry and unstable conditions are expected across northern and parts of central TX and may affect far southwestern OK near the Red River; otherwise, areas of mixed fuels that are critically to extremely dry will be especially prone to significant fire potential this afternoon.

Moderate Risk for much of the rest of TX away from the coast, in addition to southern portions of central and western OK, all due to very hot, dry and unstable conditions.

Gusty thunderstorms and lightning may complicate efforts to fight ongoing fires across OK.

Low Risk over the TX/OK panhandles and eastern OK, much of AR, northwest LA, the TX coast into southeast TX, central MS and central AL, due to hot and breezy conditions.

Low Risk through central and eastern FL and central NC, due to hot temperatures and abnormally low RH, along with gusty winds.

High Risk (U): very hot, dry and unstable conditions persist in the same areas on Friday; portions of northern TX may see scattered thunderstorms or gusty outflow winds from nearby thunderstorms, as well.

Low Risk across the TX/OK panhandles into OK, especially with southward extent where drier conditions are more likely and fuels remain receptive.

Low Risk into parts of coastal TX and northwest LA, where scattered thunderstorms are possible but hot conditions are anticipated.

Low Risk conditions prevail in central NC and parts of FL into coastal GA, all due to hot and dry conditions.

High Risk (U): very hot, dry and unstable conditions expand slightly to cover portions of west TX; otherwise, expect a continuation of these conditions in northern and parts of central TX.

Moderate Risk for far west TX and portions of the state away from the influence of the Gulf of Mexico, all due to hot, mostly dry and unstable conditions.

Low Risk into the panhandles and parts of central and western OK, which will be somewhat dependent on rainfall amounts the next few days.

Low Risk into southeast GA and much of FL again, where increasingly hot conditions persist with areas of RH that may drop below 30% in the afternoon.

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10-Hour Fuels

- 10-hour dead fuel moisture as low as 4-9% was common across TX into OK; look for improvement across much of OK into AR the next several days, while values below 10% should continue over most of western and northern TX.
- A few pockets across the Southeast have 10-hour dead fuel moisture values from 9-14%, while most of the rest of the SA is seeing considerably more moist values.

100-Hour Fuels

- 100-hour fuels remain driest across drought-stricken TX and OK into western AR, with readings generally above 15% over the rest of the SA outside of a few isolated pockets.
- Look for a decrease values over TX into parts of LA, MS, AL, GA, SC and FL heading into the first few days of August, while 100-hour fuels should moisten up where wetting rain occurs in OK, AR, TN, KY, NC and VA.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI)

- KBDIs above 700 continue to expand across TX into the Arklatex and eastern OK.
- No significant change has been noted across the Southeast, where pockets of KBDIs above 400 are found but most locations have values below 200.
- General improvements can be expected across the northern tier of the SA, while areas farther south away from any sea breeze thunderstorms should dry out over the next week.

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Drought Monitor Update

- Drought coverage over the Southern Area decreased further this week, now covering 36.8% of the Southern Area.
- Most of the improvement was across the Southeast and Appalachians, though some modest increase in abnormal dryness and moderate drought was noted across the coastal Plain and Piedmont of NC into southern VA.
- No change was noted over PR and the USVI.
- Drought expanded to cover 97.4% of TX, the most since the drought of 2011-2012, though extreme to exceptional drought is notably lower as of late July compared to 2011.
- Drought conditions worsened considerably over OK, AR, western TN and KY into northern MS.

Forecast Rainfall the Next Week

- Drier than normal conditions will continue to affect the southern half to two-thirds of the Southern Area over the next week, though localized heavy rain is possible near the Gulf Coast.
- A nearly stationary frontal boundary will continue to produce widespread heavy rain across most of the northern tier, with some areas likely to pick up 3-6” of rain through the weekend, before drier conditions resume next week.

Checking in on the Tropics

- The Atlantic basin remains mostly quiet as a bone-dry air mass associated with the Saharan Air Layer (SAL) continues to overspread the region.
- A tropical wave is producing disorganized showers and thunderstorms over the deep tropics – this wave will quickly move towards the west-northwest, entering the Caribbean over the weekend.
- An increase in trade winds may produce a modest uptick in rain chances for PR and the USVI this weekend, but most of this energy appears as if it will pass south of the islands.
- Forecast guidance shows little to no risk for development at this time as the SAL continues to suppress tropical activity.

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