

CONSERVE. PROTECT. LEAD.



Texas Fire Potential Update

October 16th – October 21st , 2026

Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services

Fire Potential Notes October 16th – October 21st, 2026

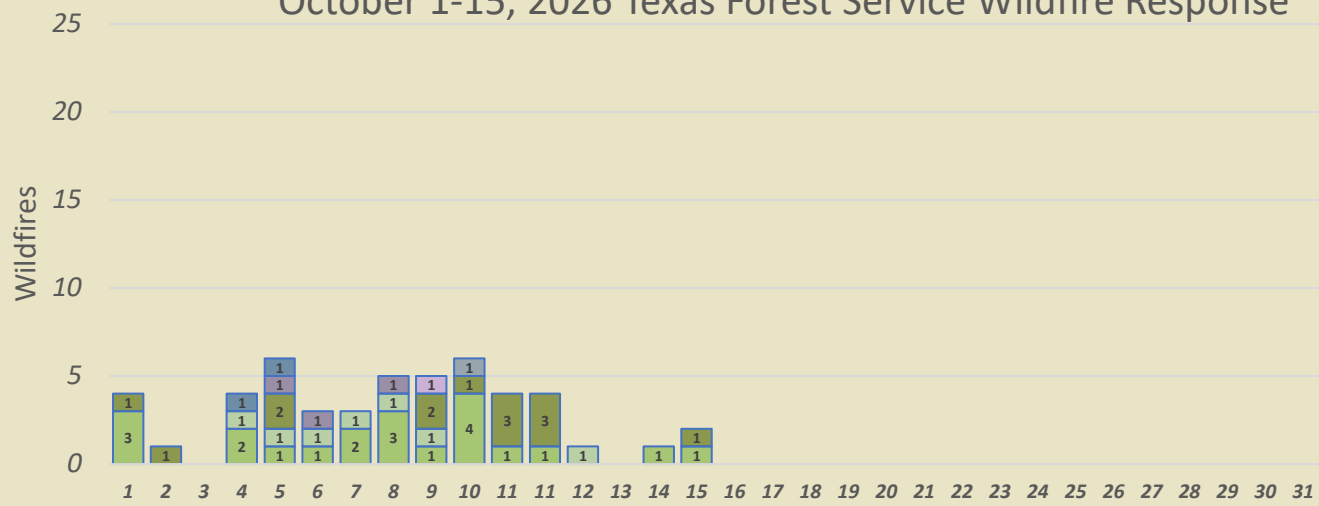


- Friday's long duration, post-frontal wind event will support moderate to high initial attack wildfire potential along and east of Interstate-35. Good early morning moisture recovery and near to above normal fuel moisture should help keep the risk for a large fire with high resistance to low, conditional to a young pine plantation or drought cured pasture/field in far East Texas.
- Saturday's fire environment will produce moderate initial attack fire potential along and east of Interstate-35 due to an extended burn period with poor moisture recovery Friday night and Saturday morning. Post-frontal wind will linger but decrease through the afternoon. The risk of a large fire should remain low.
- Sunday will support moderate initial attack fire potential in East Texas timber litter as surface fuel observes high rates of drying from the very dry airmass in place. Less wind in the fire environment and cooler temperatures will not support a large fire with high resistance to control.
- Monday through Wednesday will observe a warming trend with temperatures increasing back above normal with generally dry conditions statewide. Moderate to high rates of drying in surface fuel will continue through Tuesday for the eastern half of the state, supporting low to moderate initial attack fire potential. The risk of large fires with high resistance to control should remain limited as wind speeds are forecast to be less than 10 mph. Another cold front is possible mid to late next week, potentially increasing rainfall chances for the western third of the state.

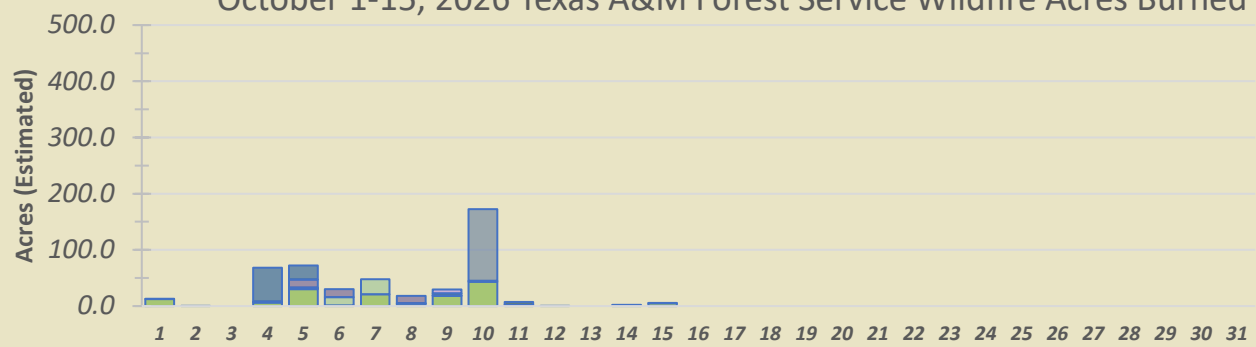
Texas A&M Forest Service initial attack wildfire occurrence over the past 5-days have been limited to the eastern half of the state. All fires have reported low resistance to control. The volume of initial attack fires will increase along and east of Interstate-35 Friday through Sunday with a long duration wind event Friday followed by a dry, post-frontal environment Saturday and Sunday.



October 1-15, 2026 Texas Forest Service Wildfire Response

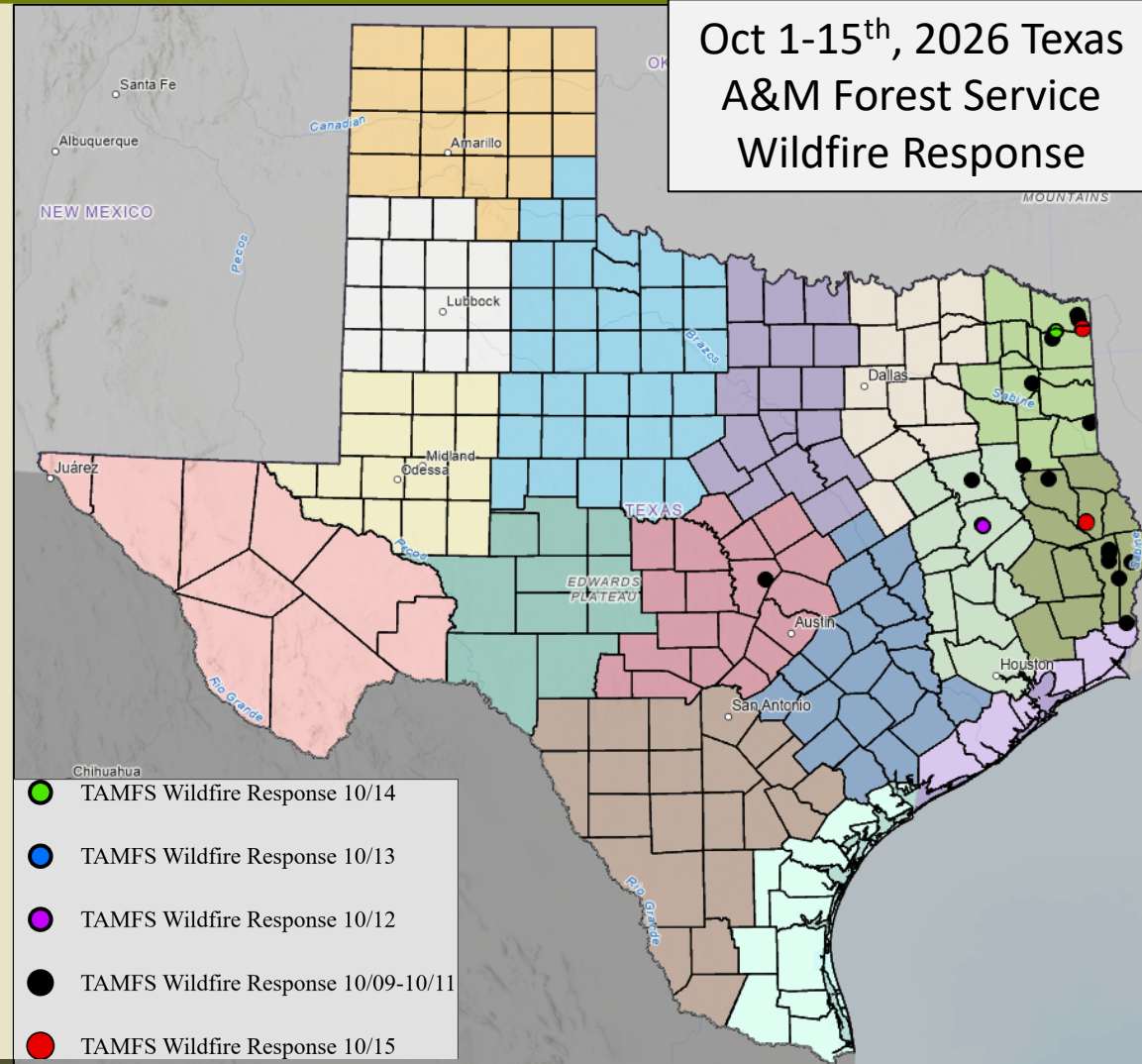


October 1-15, 2026 Texas A&M Forest Service Wildfire Acres Burned

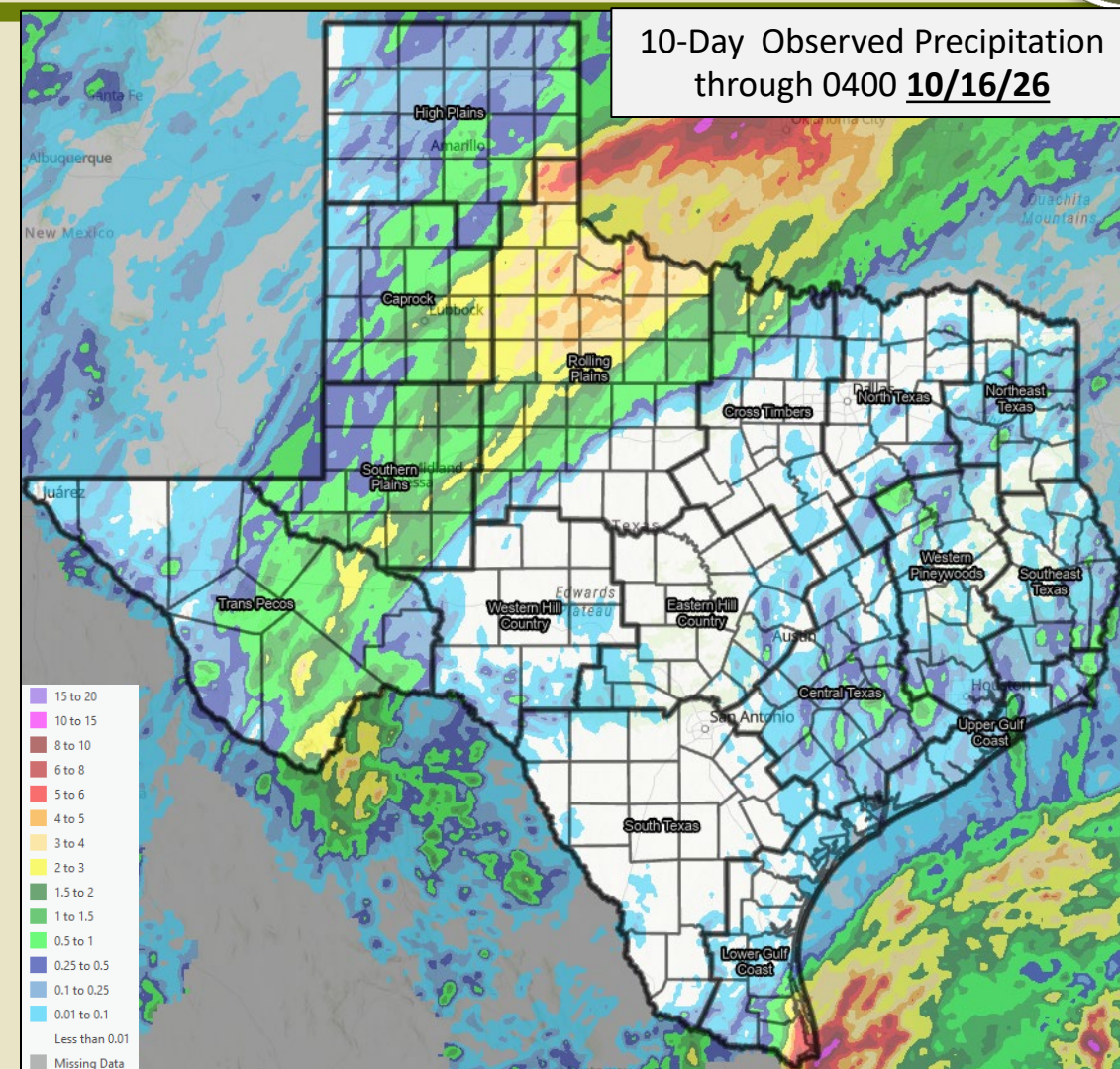
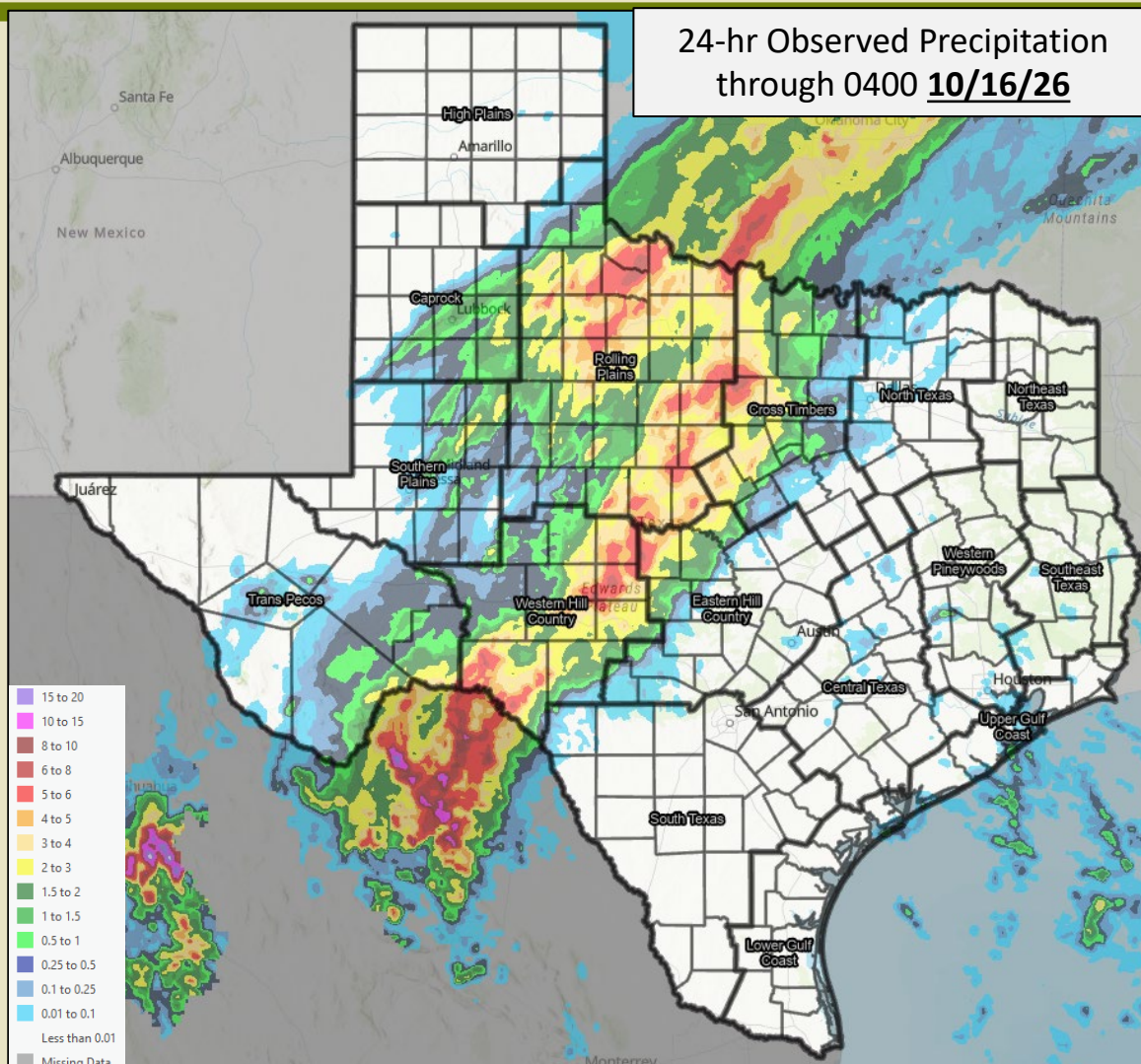


- Northeast Texas
- Western Pineywoods
- Southeast Texas
- North Texas
- Cross Timbers
- Central Texas
- Rolling Plains
- High Plains
- South Texas
- Upper Gulf Coast
- Southern Plains
- Trans Pecos
- Eastern Hill Country
- Western Hill Country
- Lower Gulf Coast
- Caprock

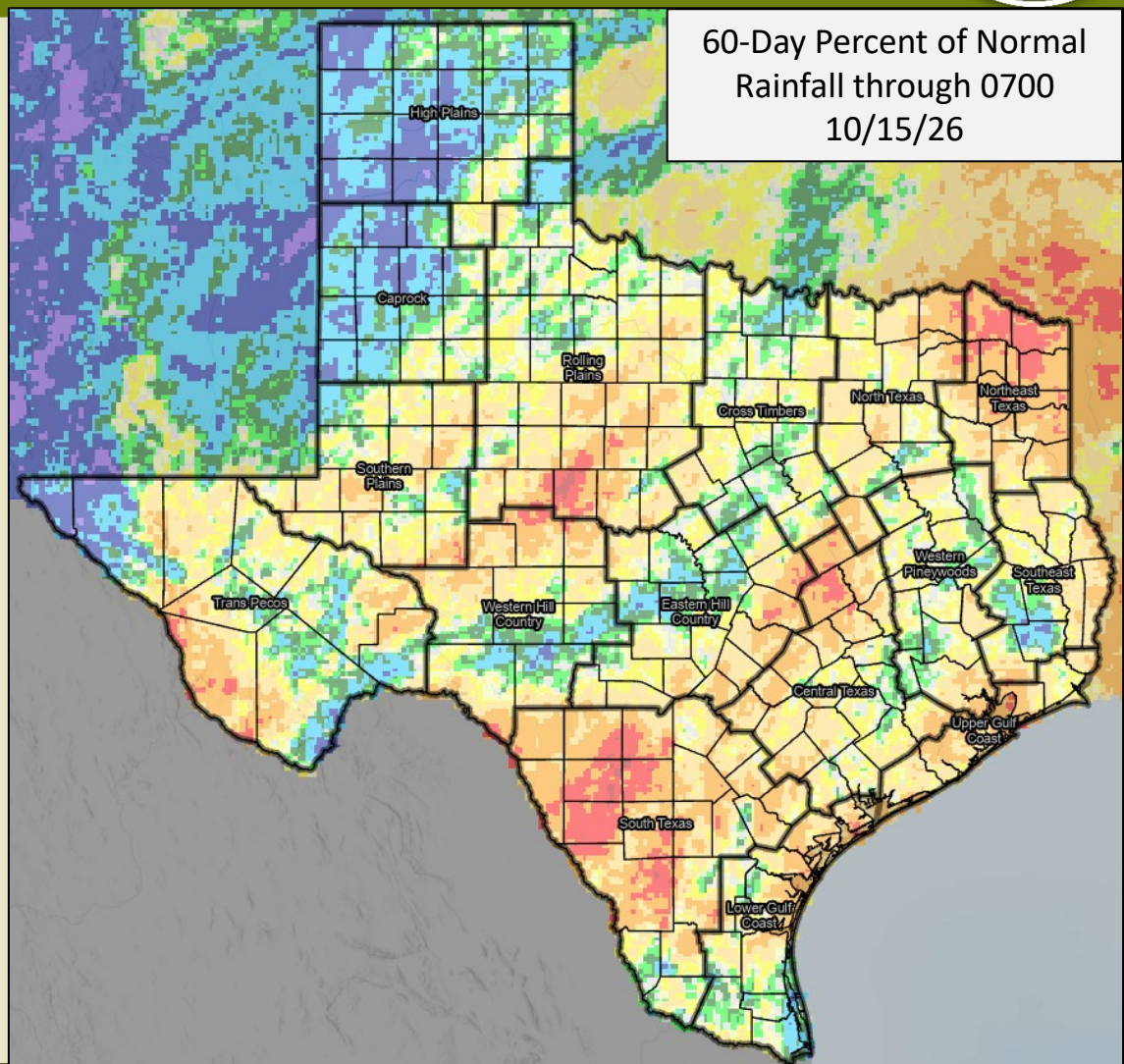
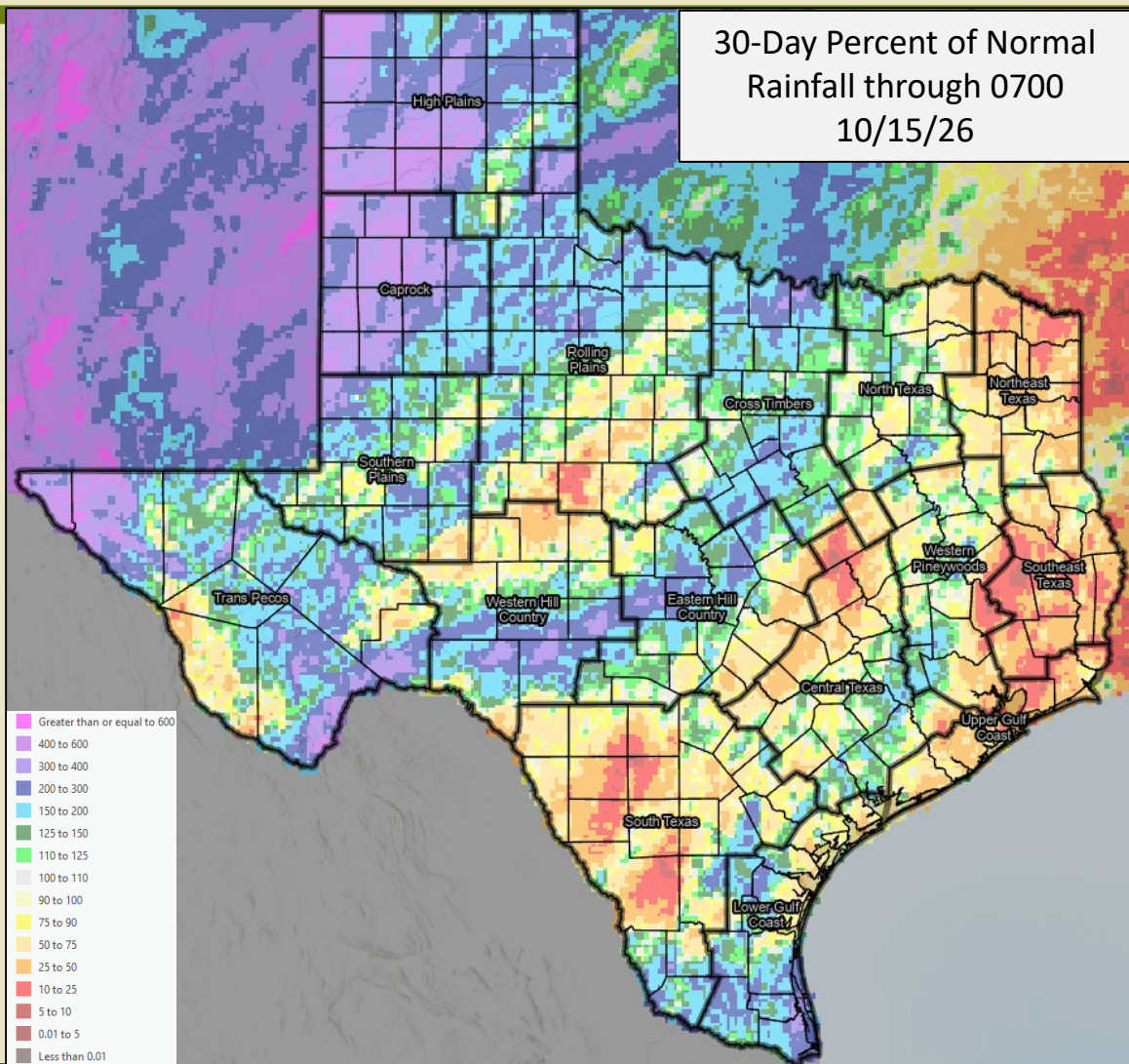
Oct 1-15th, 2026 Texas A&M Forest Service Wildfire Response



Heavy rainfall has been observed the past 24-72 hours in the Trans Pecos, Southern Plains, Caprock, Rolling Plains, Western Hill Country, and Cross Timbers and will limit fire potential. Most of East, Central, and South Texas has observed little rainfall the past 10-12 days.



Underlying dryness has improved in the Rolling Plains from several days of heavy rainfall. Central Texas, East Texas, and portions of South Texas continue to carry underlying dryness which will support increased risk for wildfire activity Friday when exposed to strong, post-frontal conditions. Percent of rainfall maps will improve further in the Rolling Plains, Western Hill Country, and Cross Timbers once Thursday's rainfall is updated into the map products.



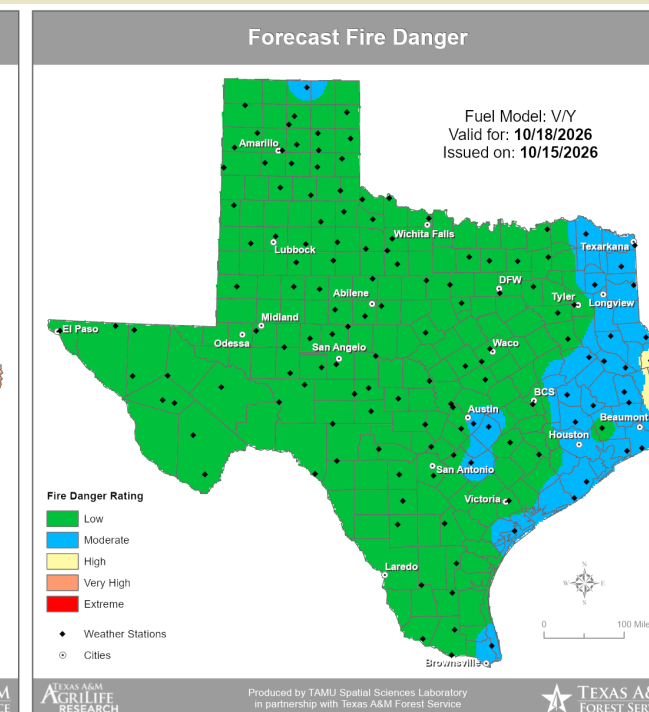
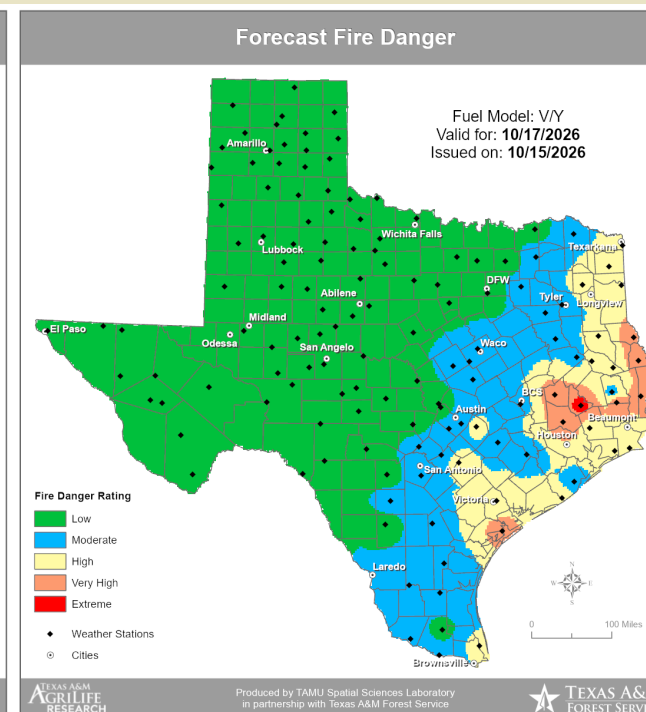
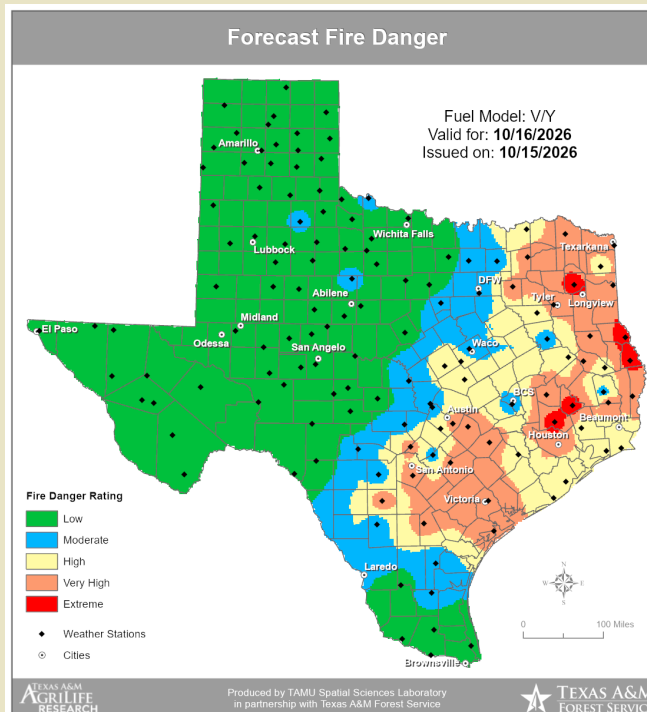
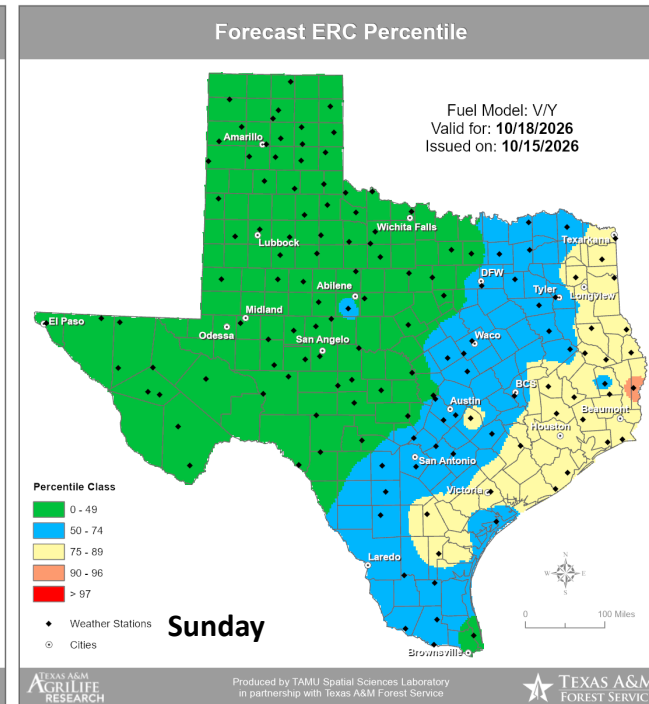
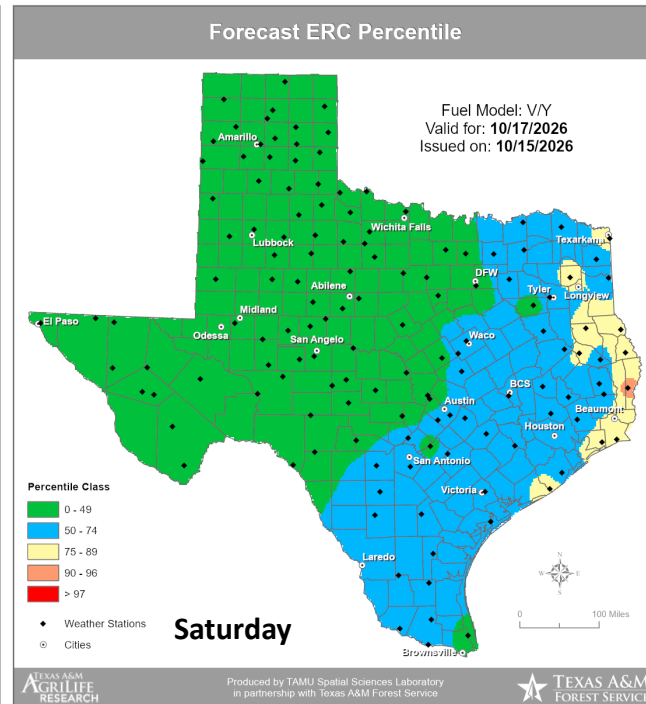
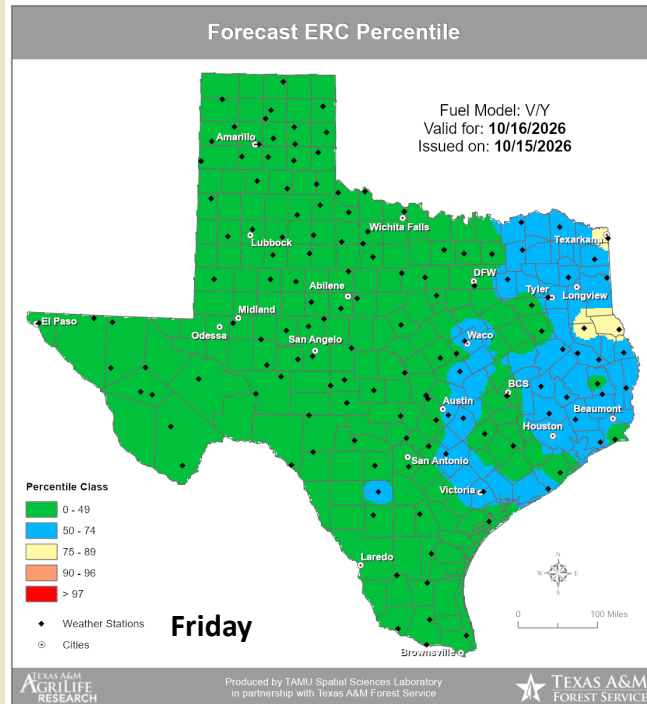


Fire Environment Forecast Friday-Sunday

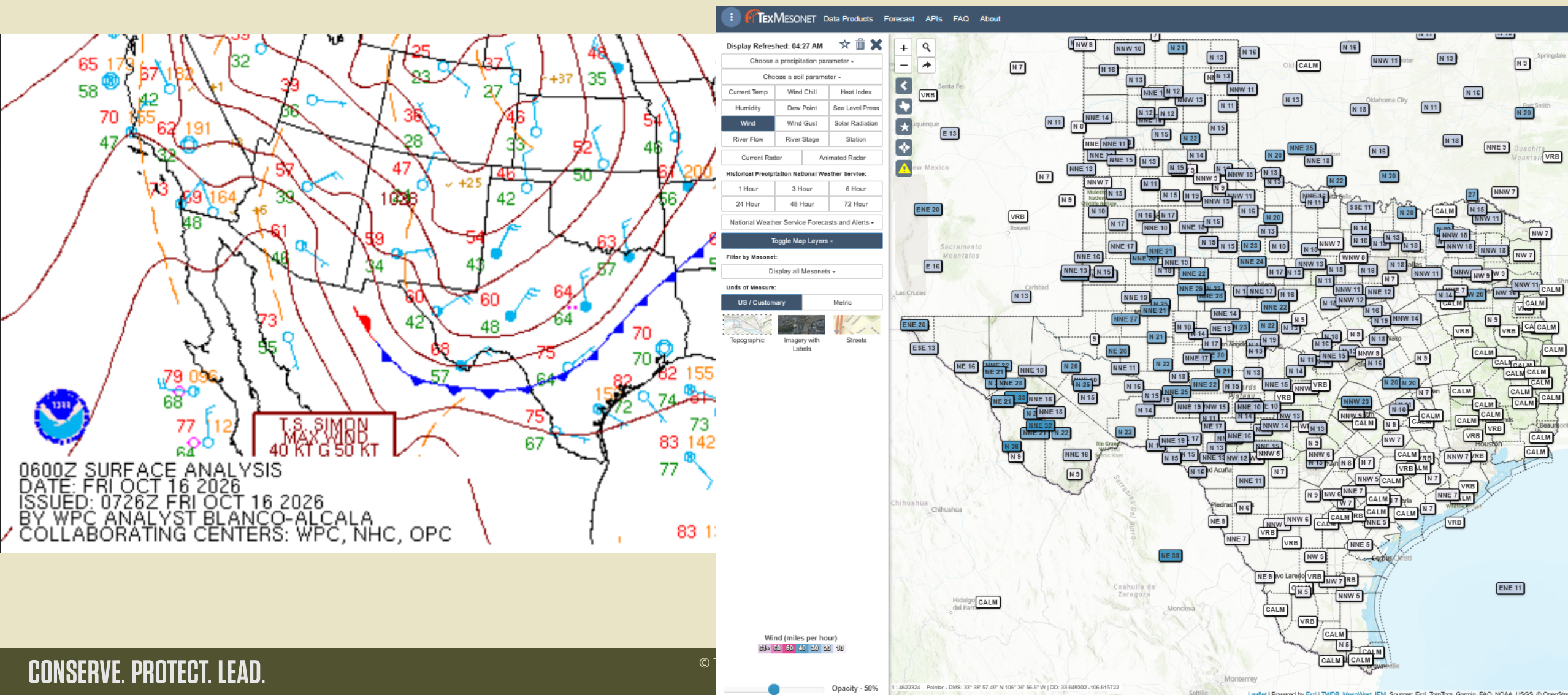
Friday's long duration, post-frontal wind event will support moderate to high initial attack wildfire potential along and east of Interstate-35. Good early morning moisture recovery and near to above normal fuel moisture (ERC<75th percentile) should help keep the risk for a large fire with high resistance to low, conditional to a young pine plantation or drought cured pasture/field in far East Texas.

Saturday's fire environment will produce moderate initial attack fire potential along and east of Interstate-35 due to an extended burn period with poor moisture recovery Friday night and Saturday morning. Post-frontal wind will linger but decrease through the afternoon. The risk of large of fire should remain low.

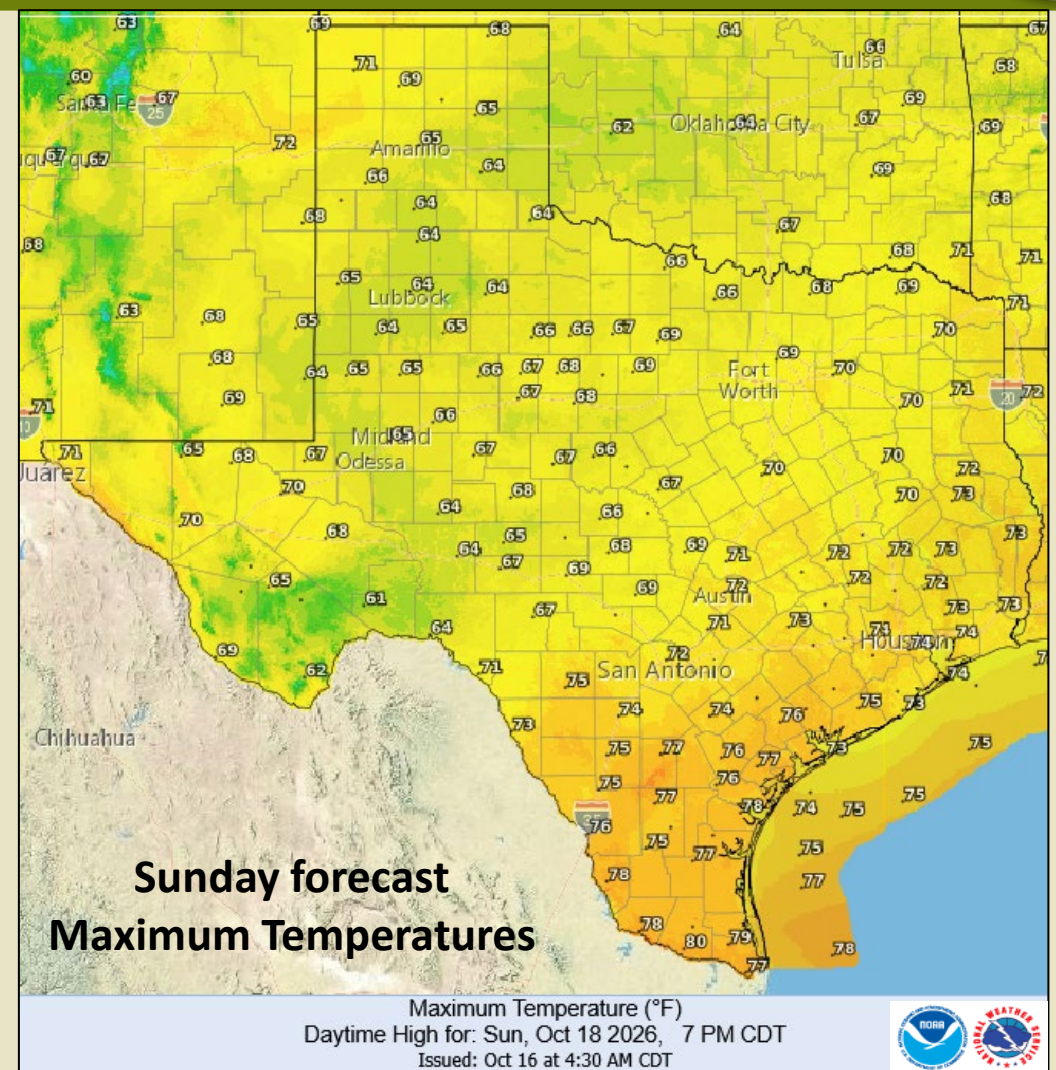
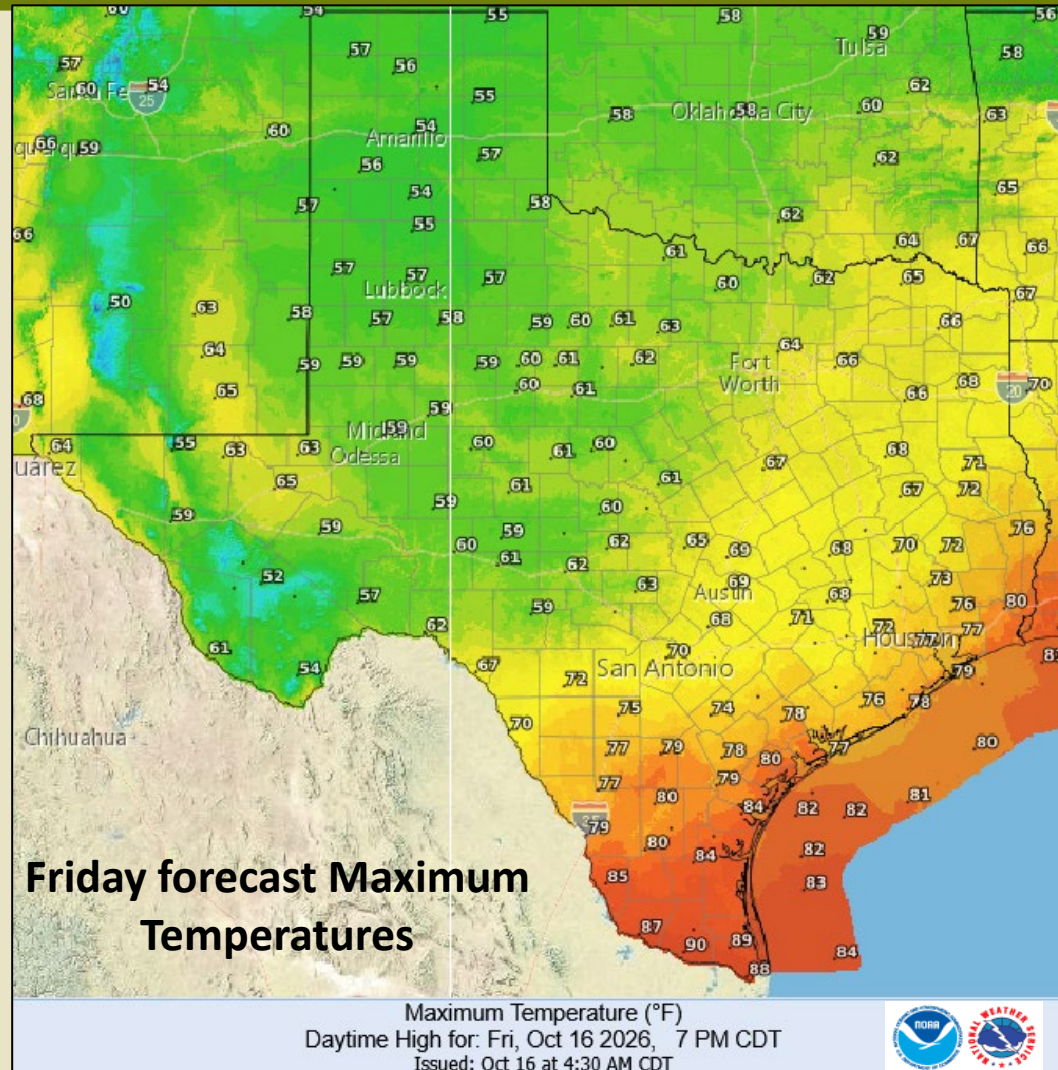
Sunday will support moderate initial attack fire potential as surface fuel observed high rates of drying with increasing ERC percentiles. Less wind in the fire environment will not support a large fire with high resistance to control.



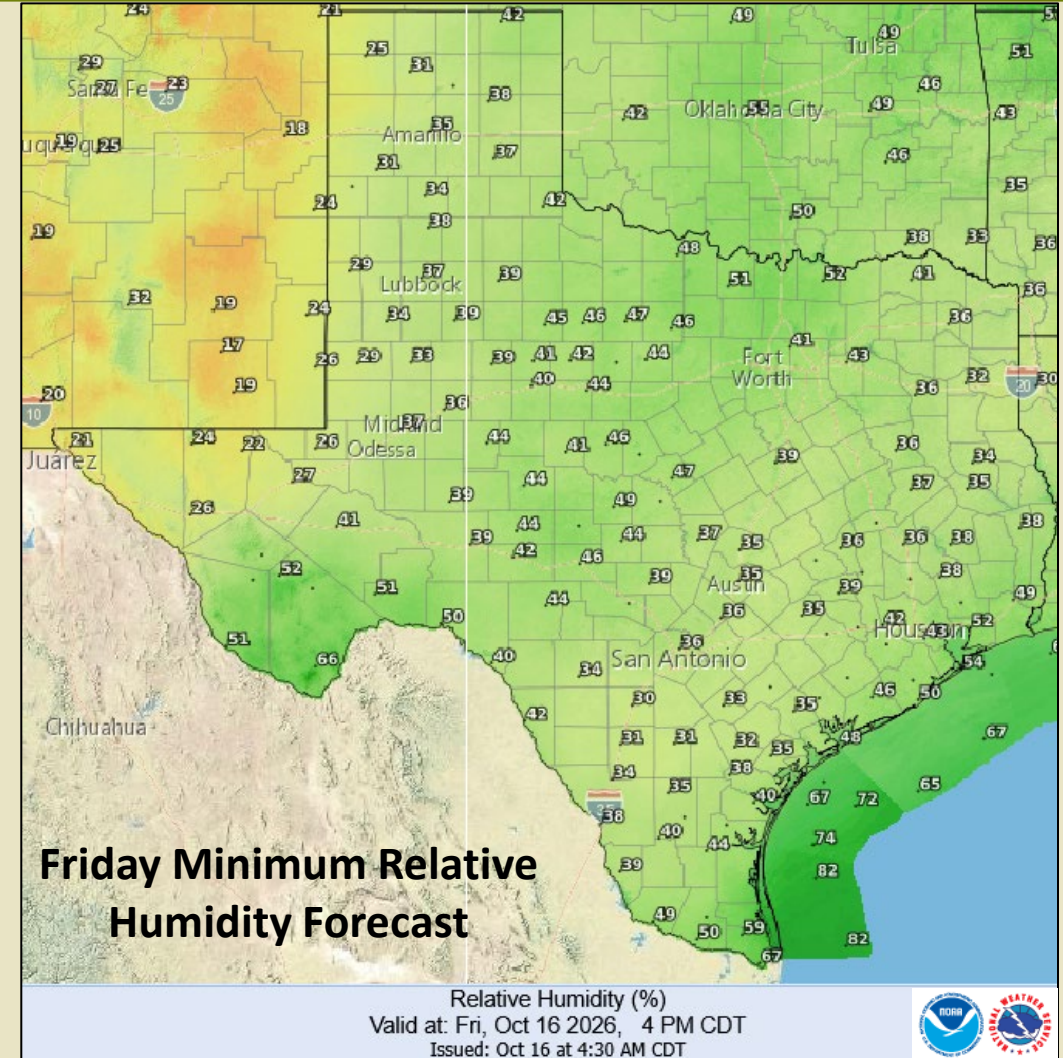
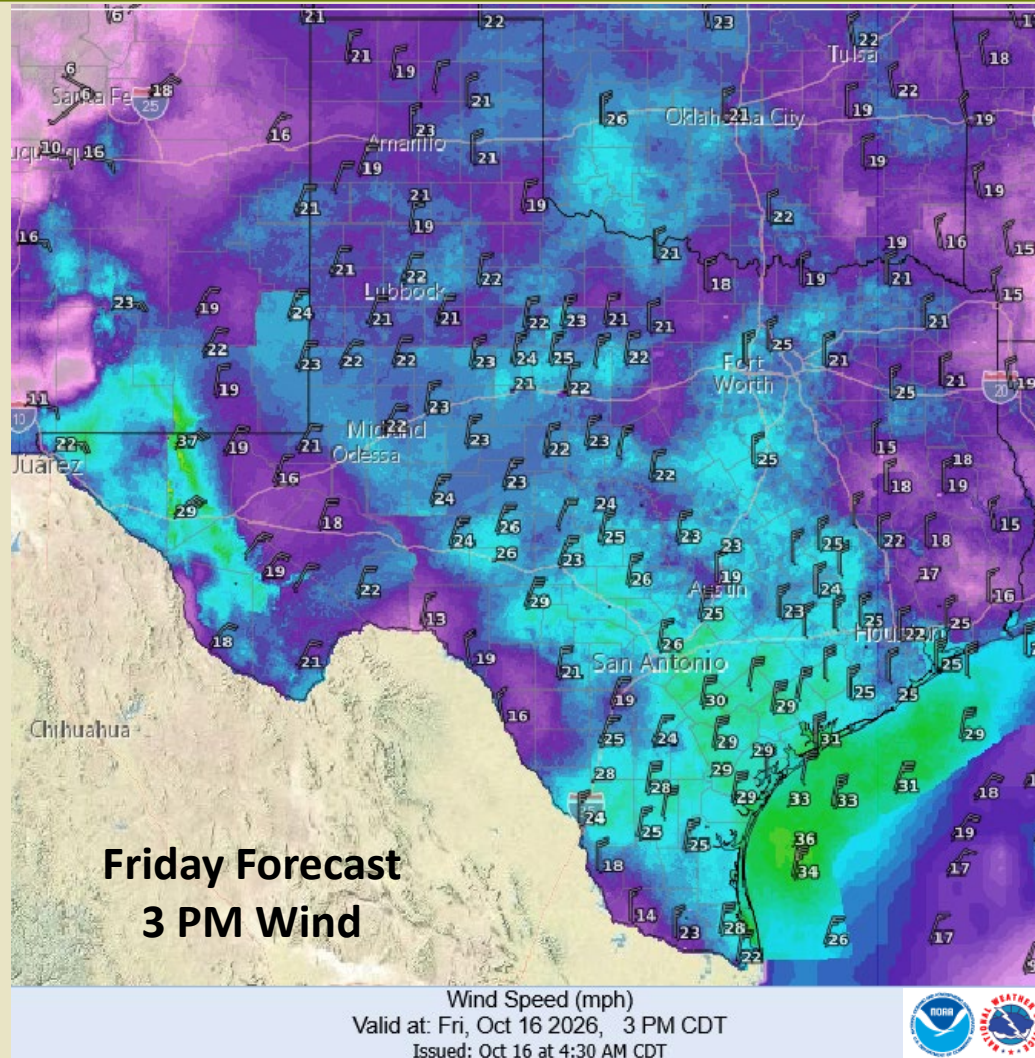
A strong cold front is moving south through Texas, resulting in wind speeds of 20-30 mph with localized gusts of 40 mph observed at 04:30 AM. Wind speeds will remain elevated into Friday evening with National Weather Service offices issuing wind advisories for the southern two thirds of the state and Red Flag Warnings in East Texas and far South Texas.



Temperatures will be 5-15 degrees below normal Friday through Sunday with the passage of cold front.

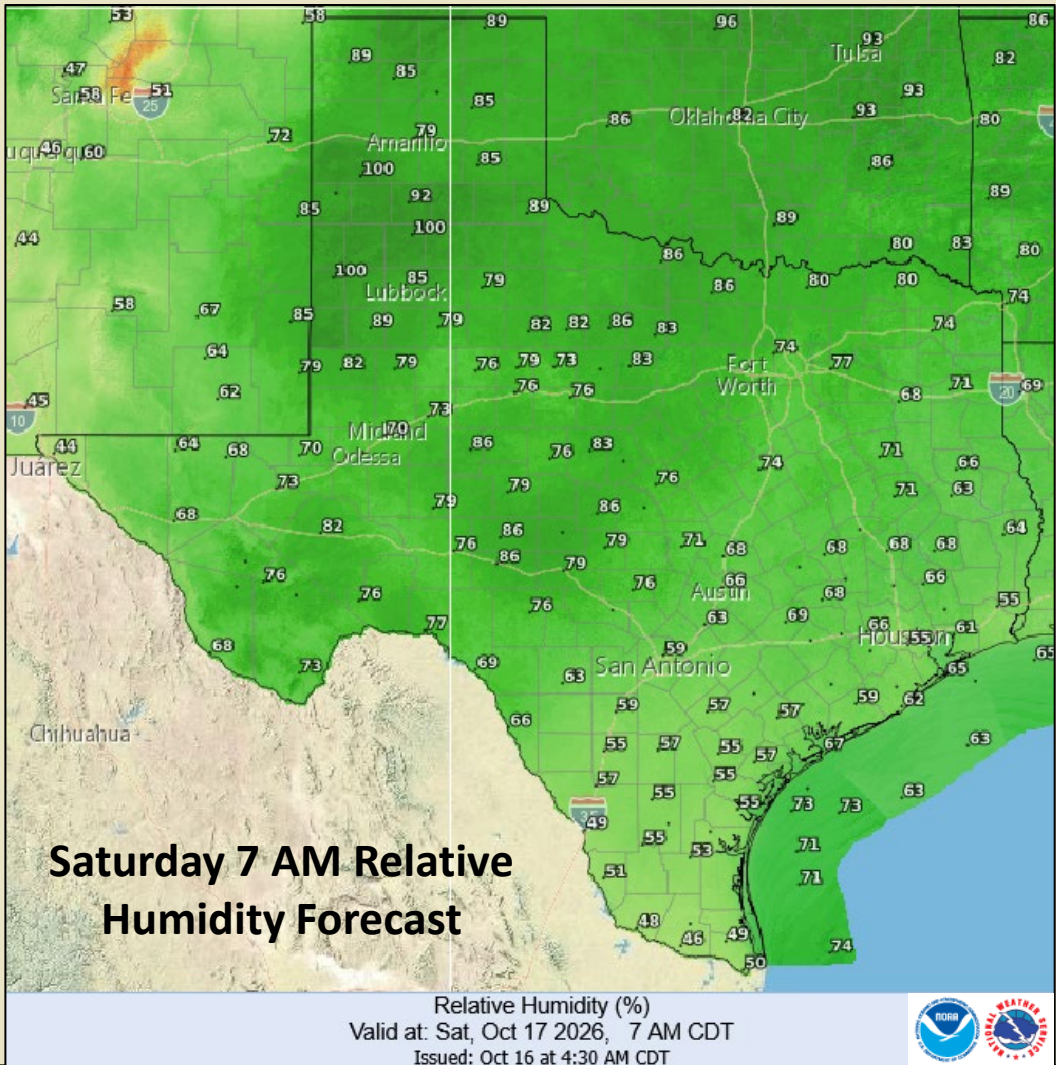
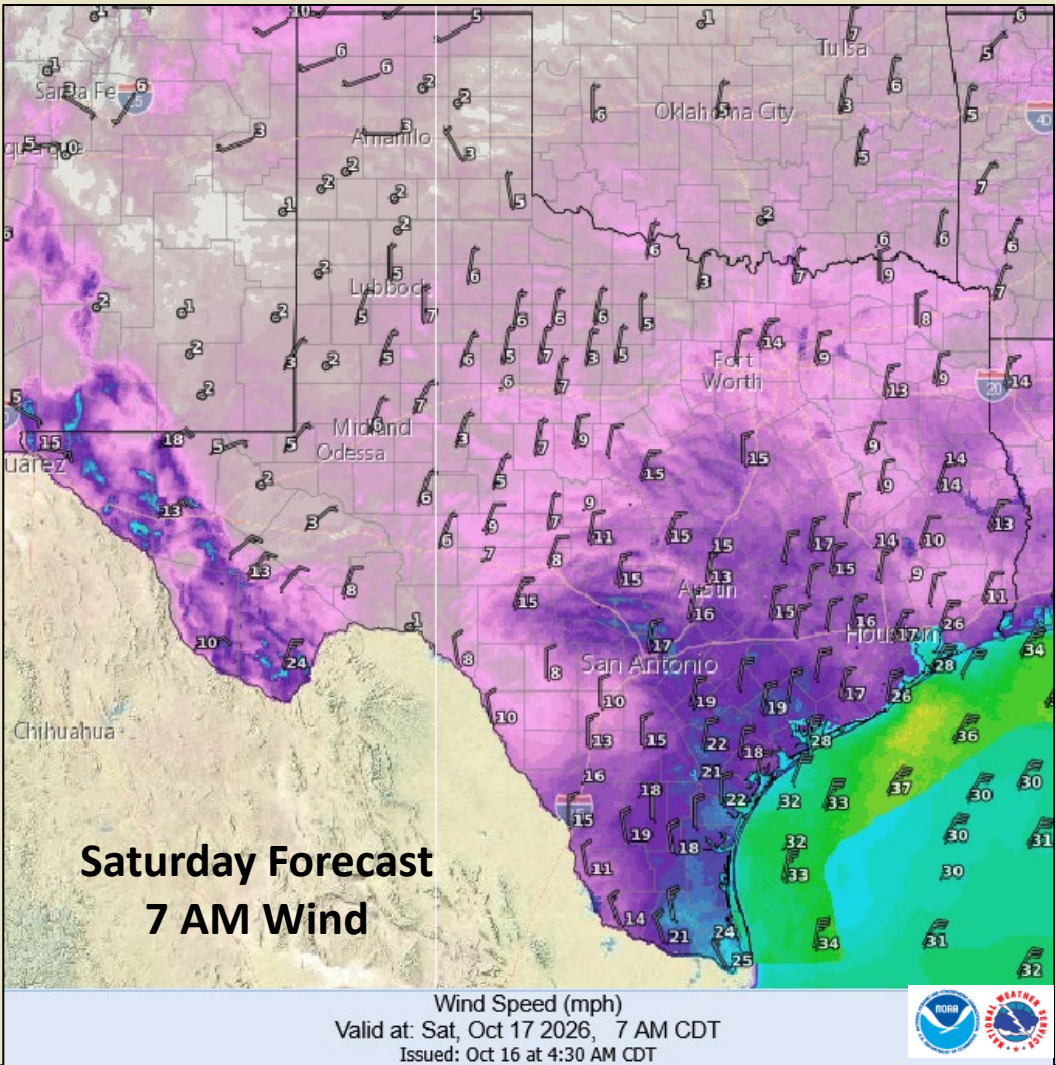


Strong, long duration, post-frontal winds will support moderate to high initial attack fires along and East of Interstate-35 where underlying dryness remains. Though relative humidity values will remain slightly elevated, the exposure time to the elevated wind speeds, including gusts of 30-40 mph will increase the risk.

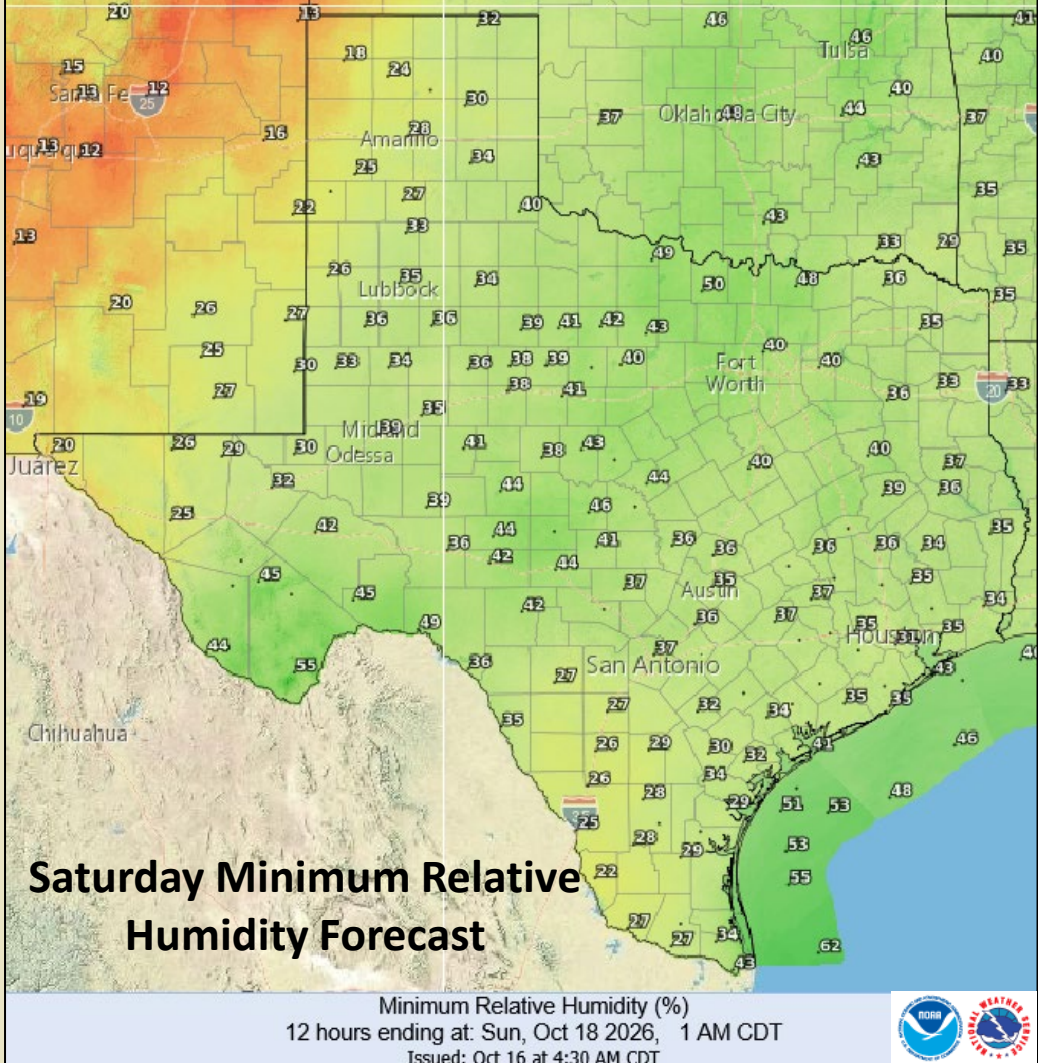
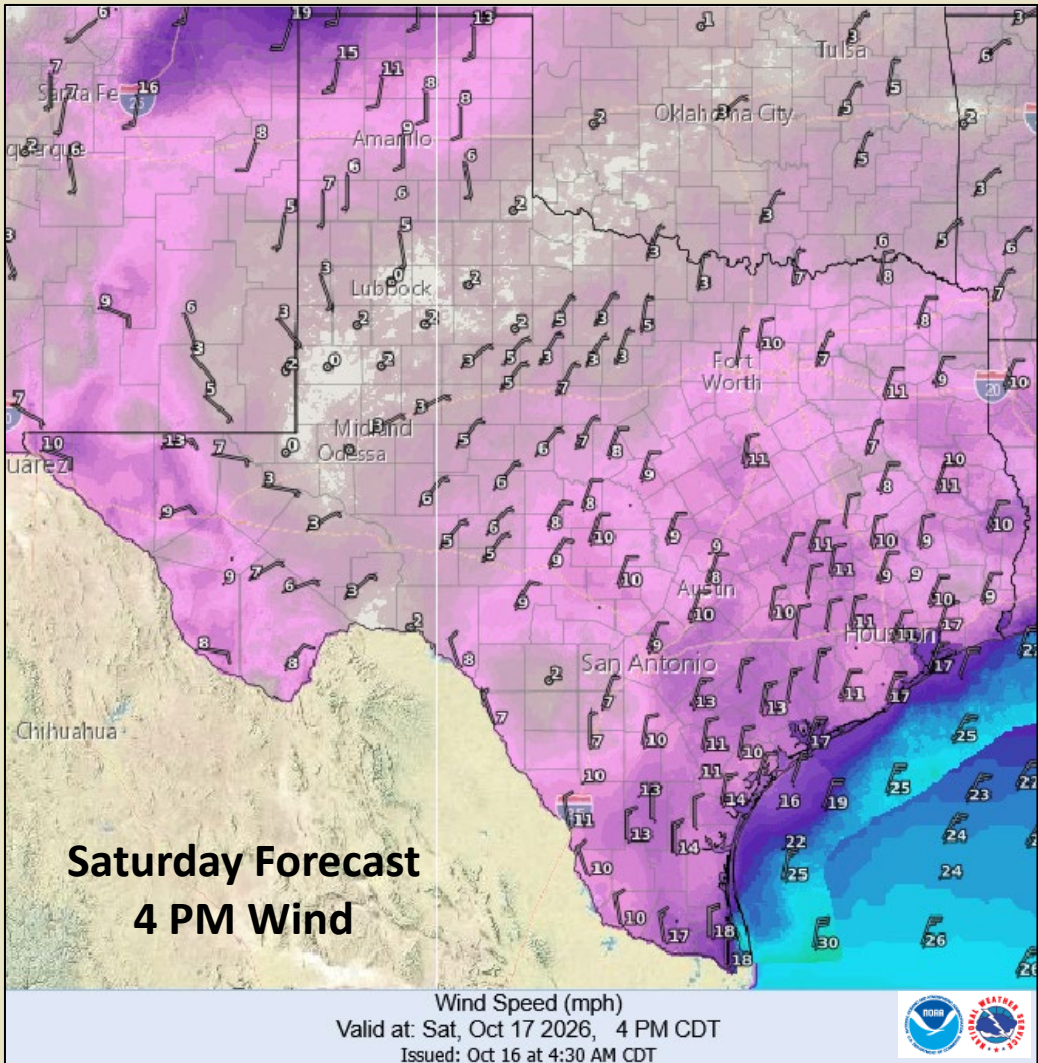




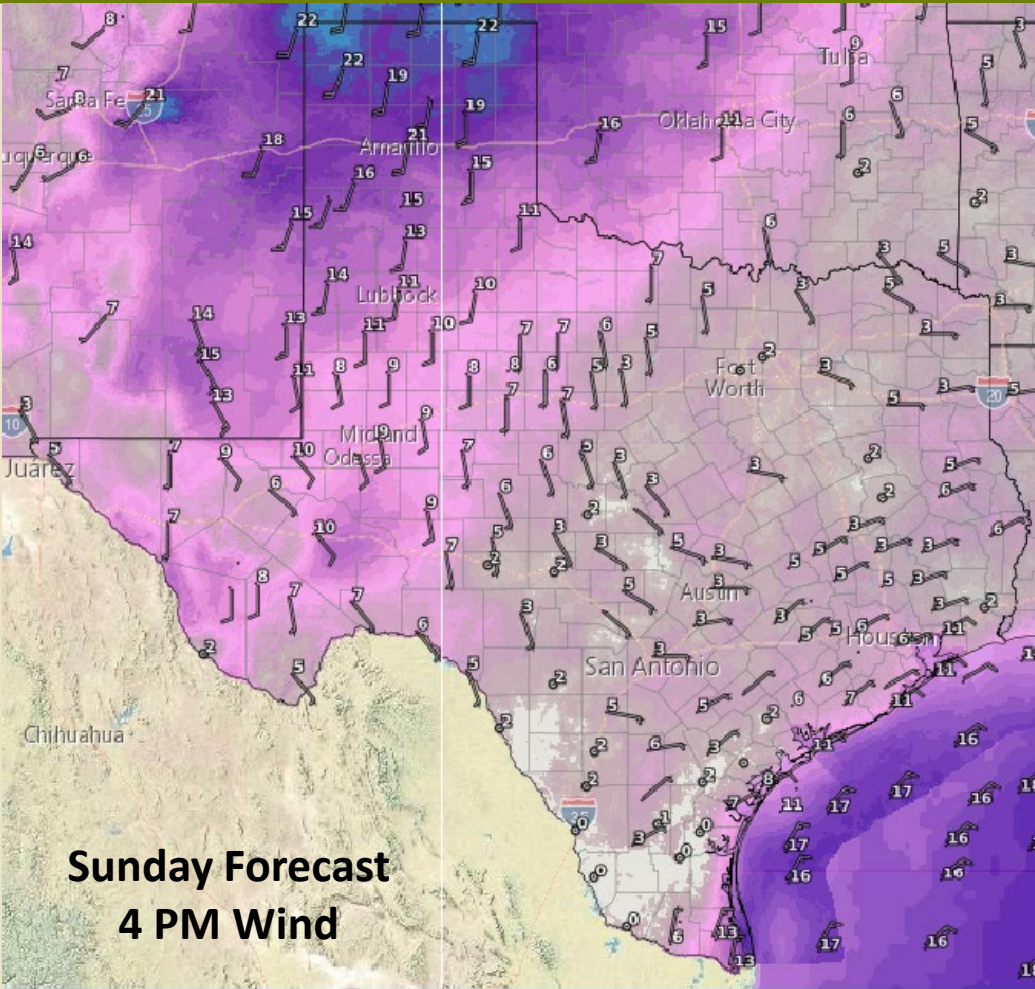
Post-frontal winds will remain elevated Friday night and Saturday morning. A very dry airmass will result in poor overnight moisture recoveries for the eastern half of the state. Maximum morning relative humidity values less than 80% is considered poor east of Interstate-35. This will lead to an earlier burn period Saturday.



Saturday's fire environment will produce moderate initial attack fire potential along and east of Interstate-35 due to an extended burn period with poor Friday night and Saturday morning moisture recovery. Post-frontal wind will linger but decrease through the afternoon. The risk of large of fire should remain low.

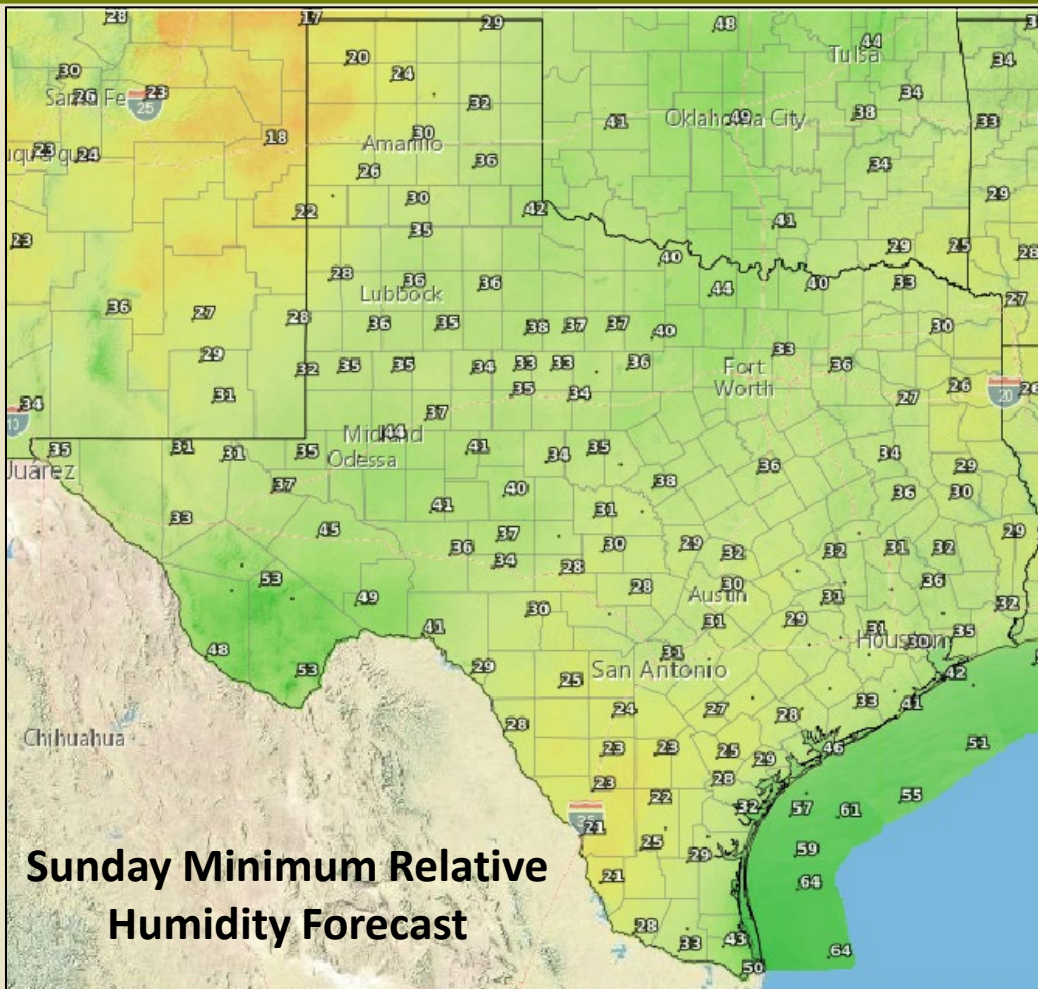


Sunday will support moderate initial attack fire potential as surface fuel observed high rates of drying with increasing ERC percentiles. Less wind in the fire environment will not support a large fire with high resistance to control.



**Sunday Forecast
4 PM Wind**

Wind Speed (mph)
Valid at: Sun, Oct 18 2026, 4 PM CDT
Issued: Oct 16 at 4:30 AM CDT

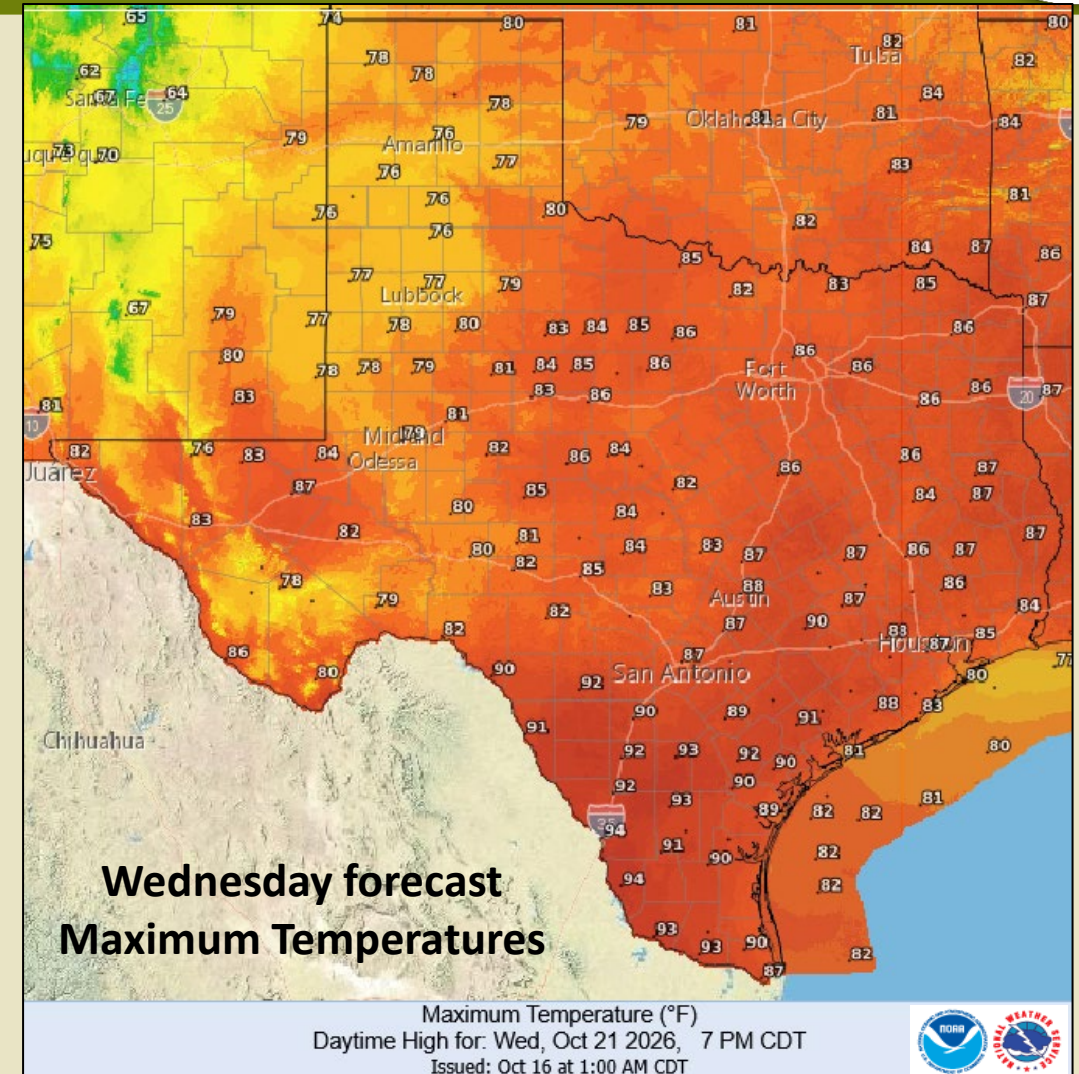
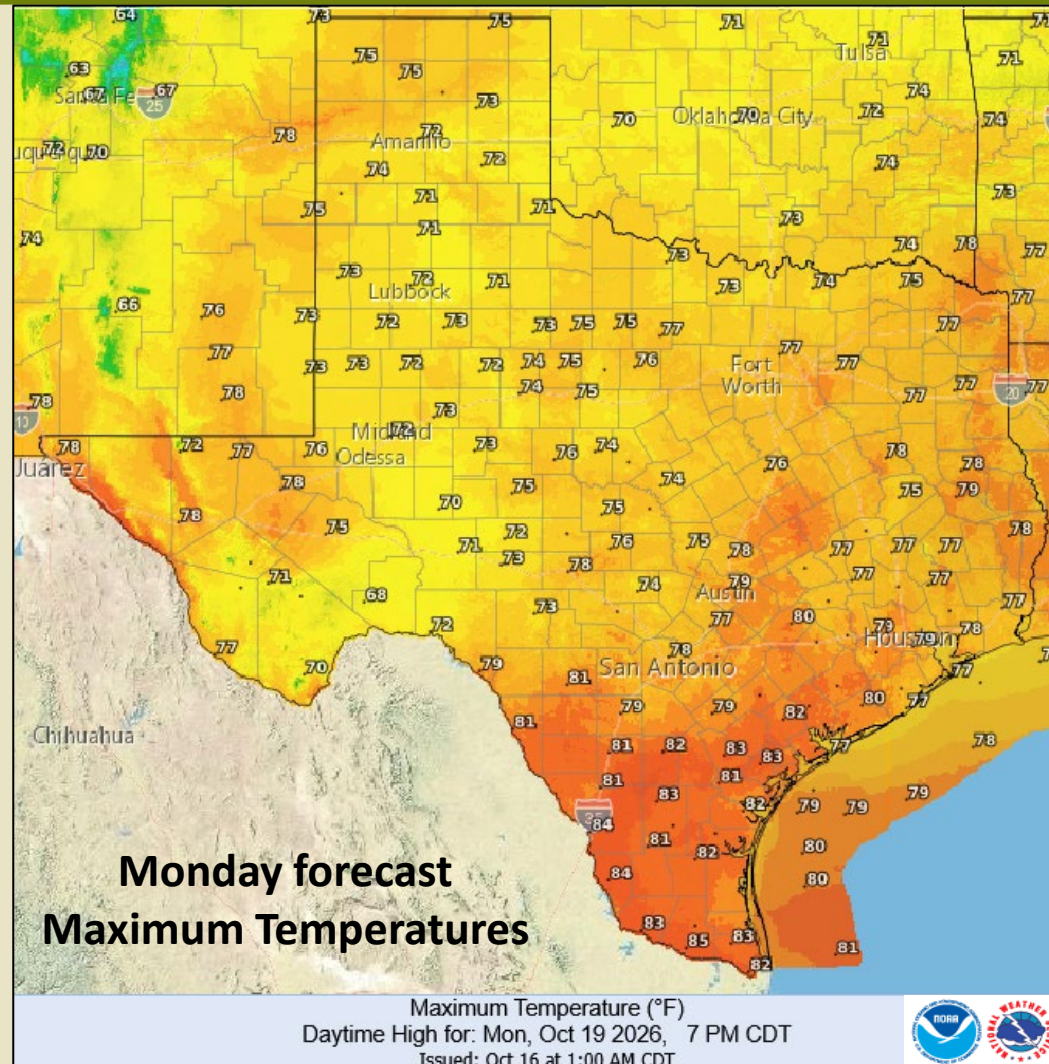


**Sunday Minimum Relative
Humidity Forecast**

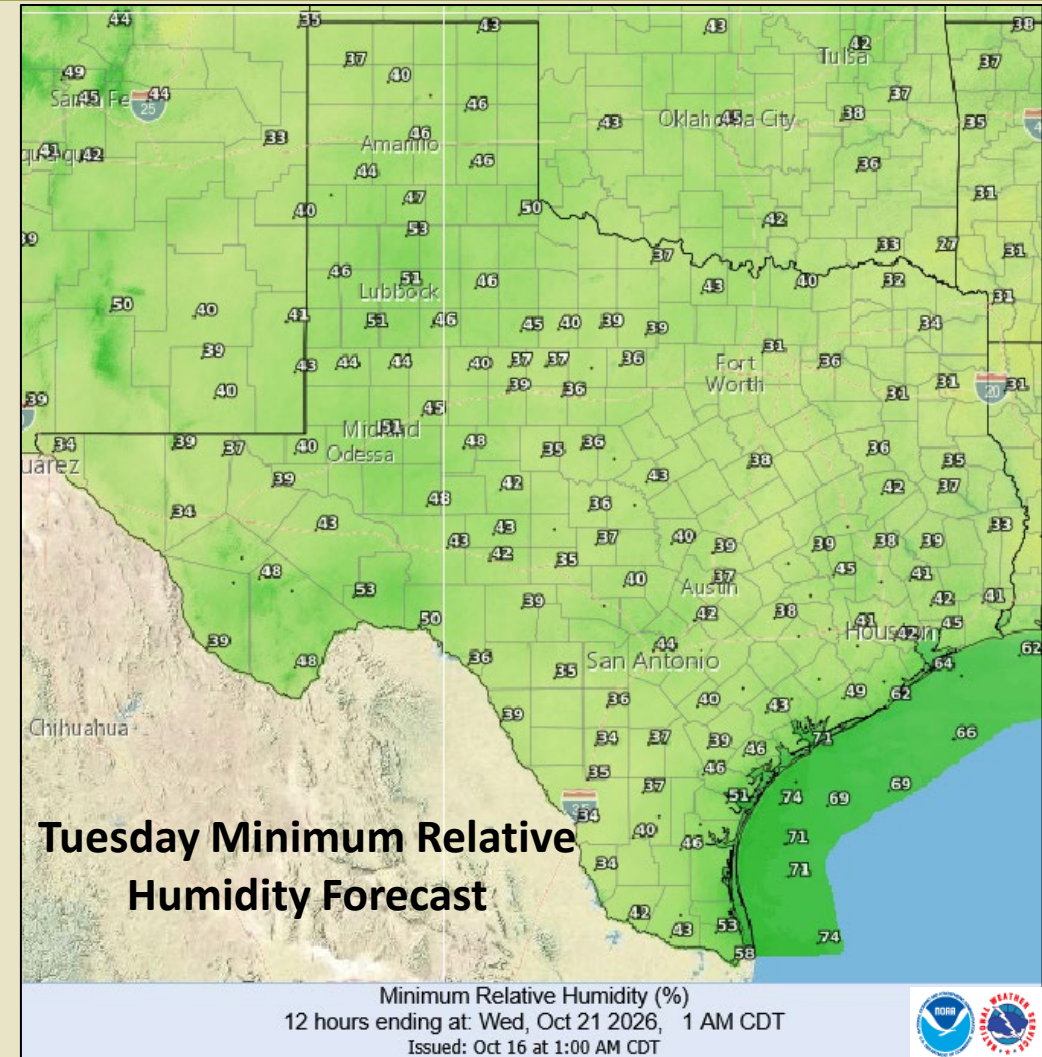
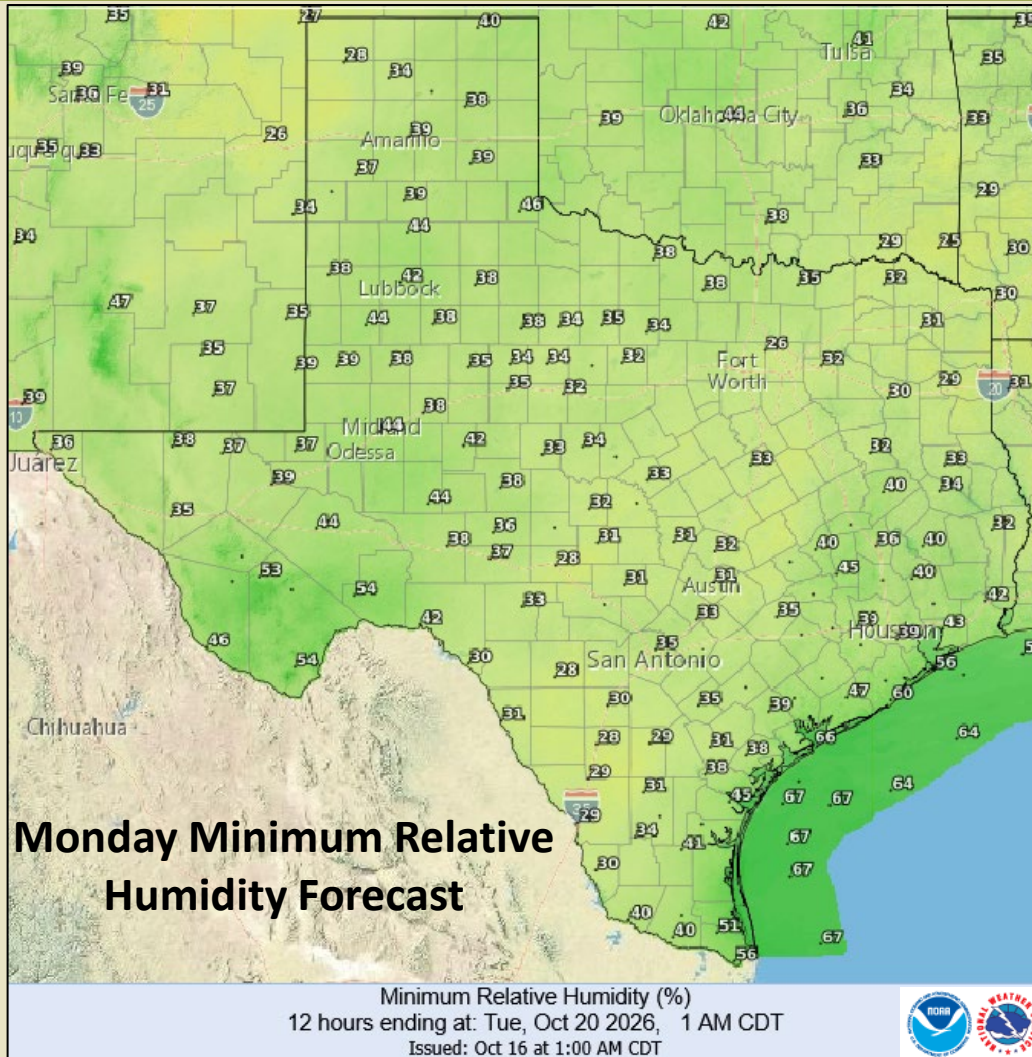
Minimum Relative Humidity (%)
12 hours ending at: Mon, Oct 19 2026, 1 AM CDT
Issued: Oct 16 at 1:00 AM CDT



Temperatures will begin to warm early next week, increasing back above normal heading into late October.



Moderate to high rates of drying in surface fuel will continue through Tuesday for the eastern half of the state, supporting low to moderate initial attack fire potential. The risk of large fires with high resistance to control should remain limited as wind speeds are forecast to be less than 10 mph.



Another cold front may enter the state mid-to late next week, increasing rainfall chances for the western half of the state. Overall, the eastern half of the state will remain dry with limited chances for rainfall the next 7-days.

