



FEMA



Prepared by
Melissa Beat

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Monday, February 23, 2026

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh.





Summary

- **Fire Weather:**

- **Elevated to locally critical (levels 1-2 of 3) fire weather concerns for SE LA, TX/OK Panhandles and E NM today.**
- **Elevated to critical (levels 1-2 of 3) conditions tomorrow over E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, OK, W/NW TX, NW AR and over E NM, TX Panhandle, C-W TX on Wednesday.**
- **Dry, northerly winds on Thursday may lead to continued fire concerns in C-S TX.**

- **River Flooding:**

- **Cache River at Patterson in NE AR is expected remain above minor flood stage through Wednesday evening. Secondary roads and pastures flooded.**





FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Next 7 days

	Monday, Feb 23	Tuesday, Feb 24	Wednesday, Feb 25	Thursday, Feb 26	Friday, Feb 27	Saturday, Feb 28	Sunday, Mar 1
Severe Storms							
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding							
Winter Weather							
Fire Weather	SE LA	E NM, TX Panhandle, OK, W/NW TX, NW AR	E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, C-W TX	C-STX			
	E NM, TX/OK Panhandles						
River Flooding	AR	AR	AR				

Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.

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

Risk Levels	Little to None	Minor	Moderate	Major	Extreme
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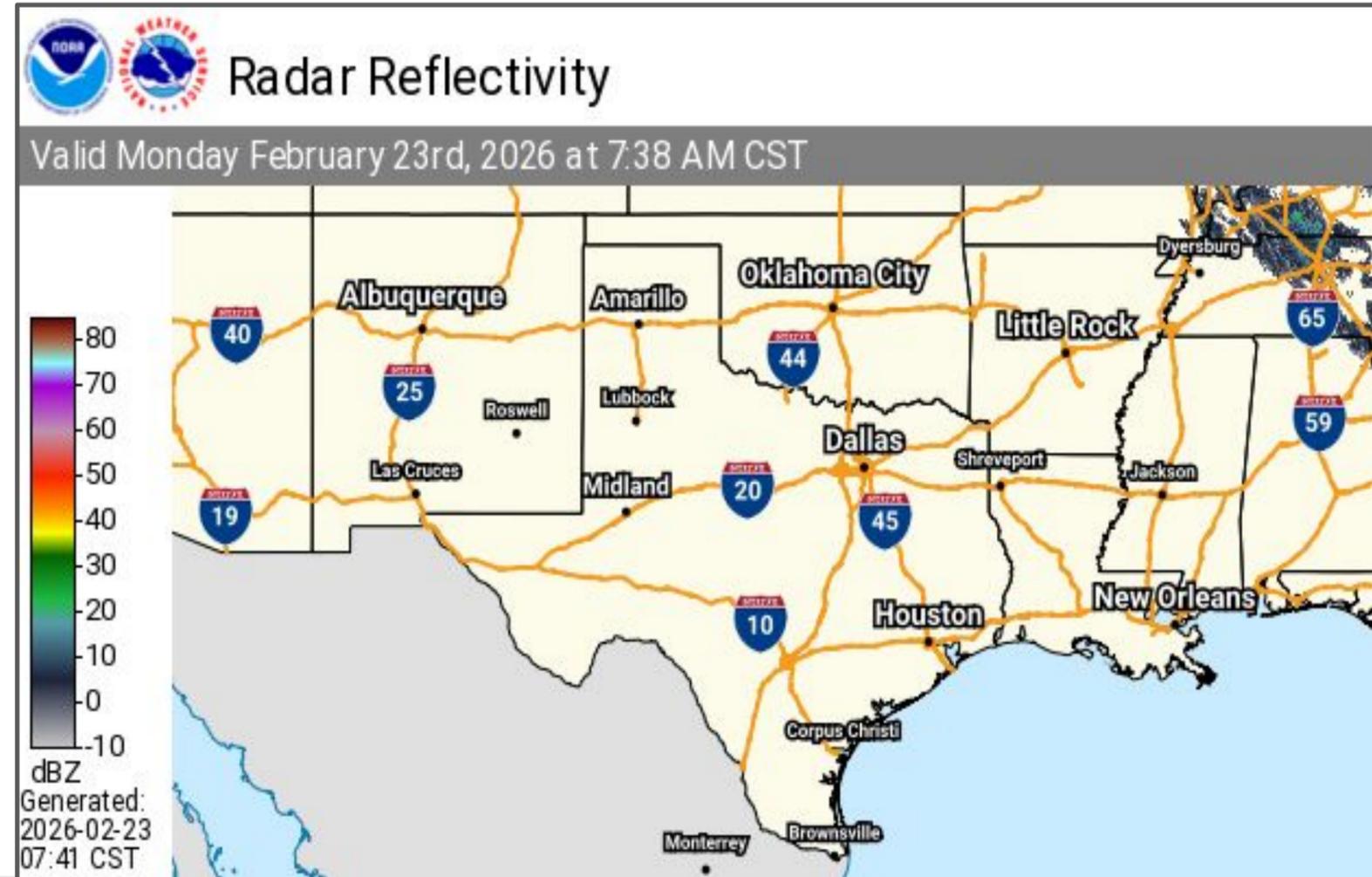


Current Radar/Hazards



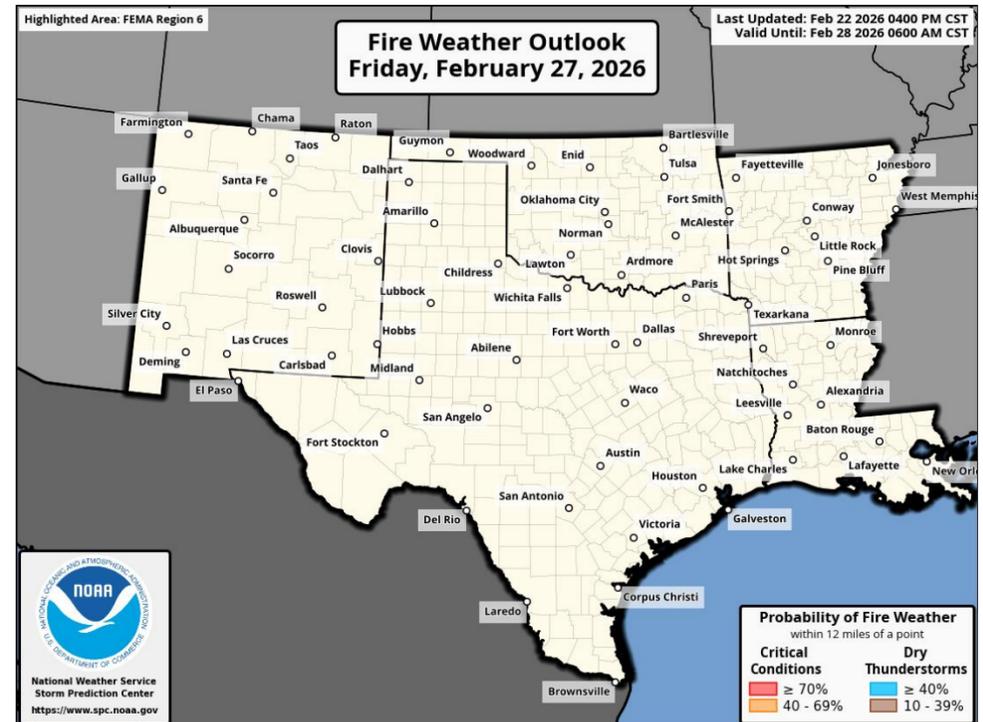
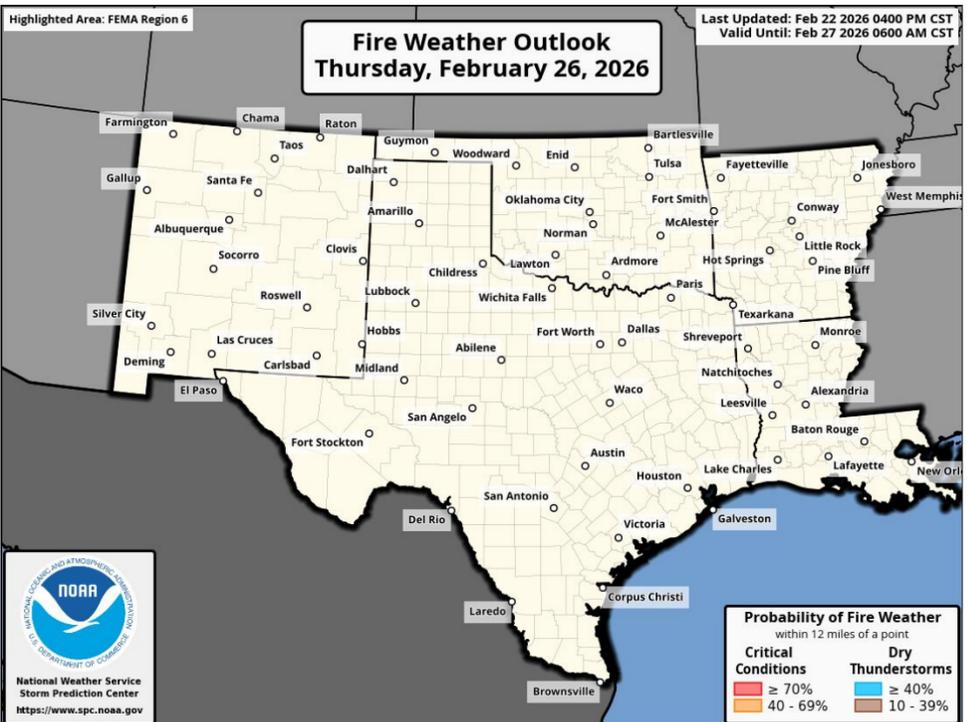
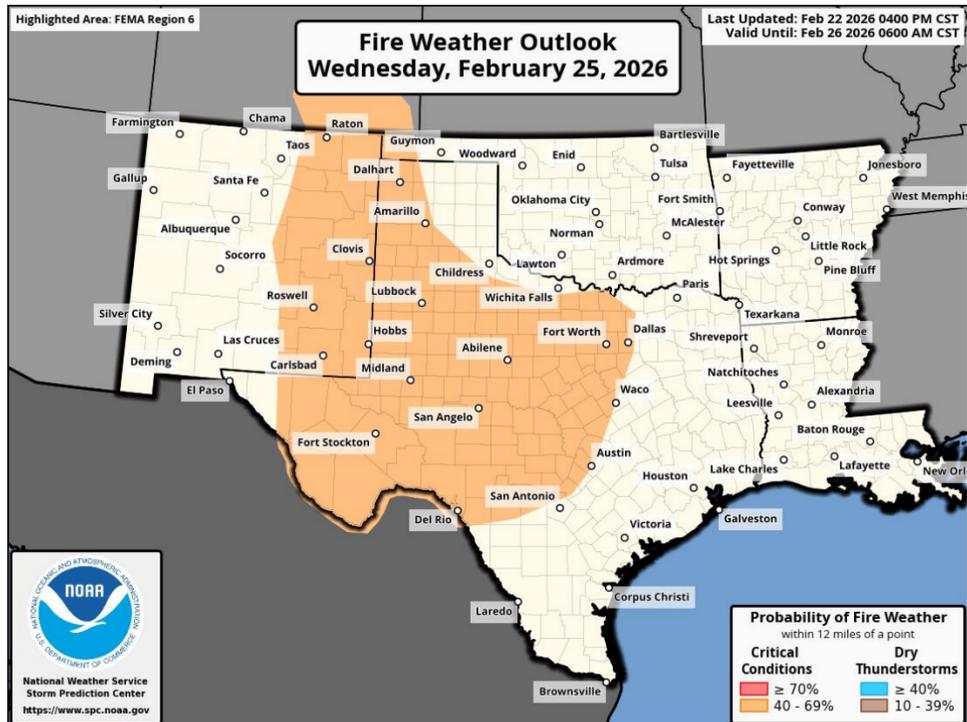
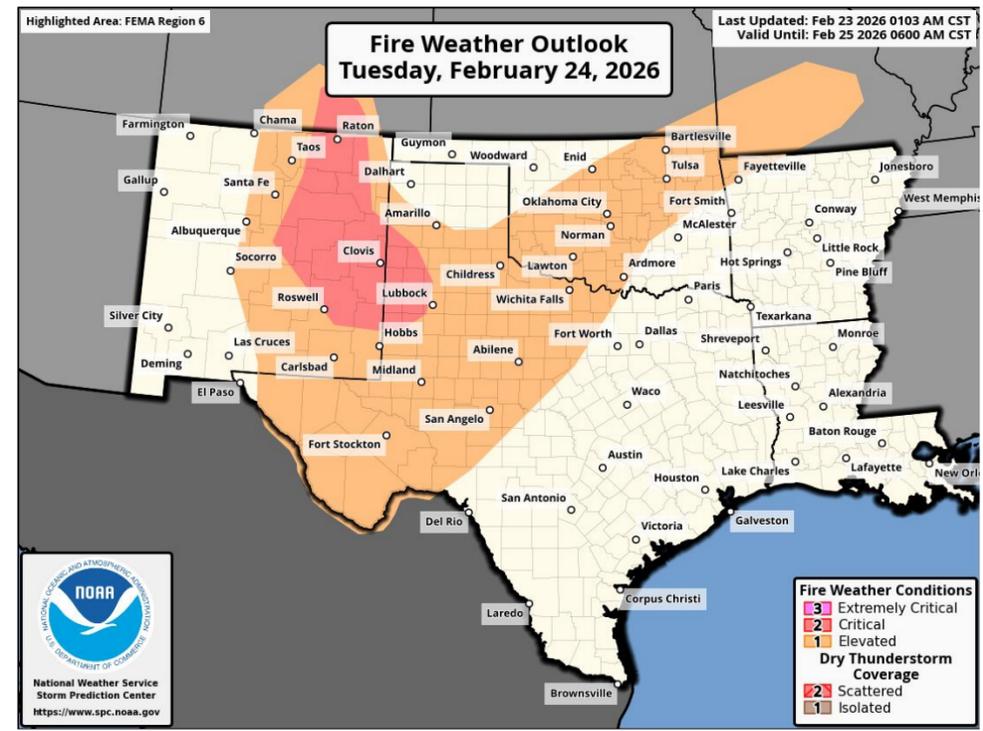
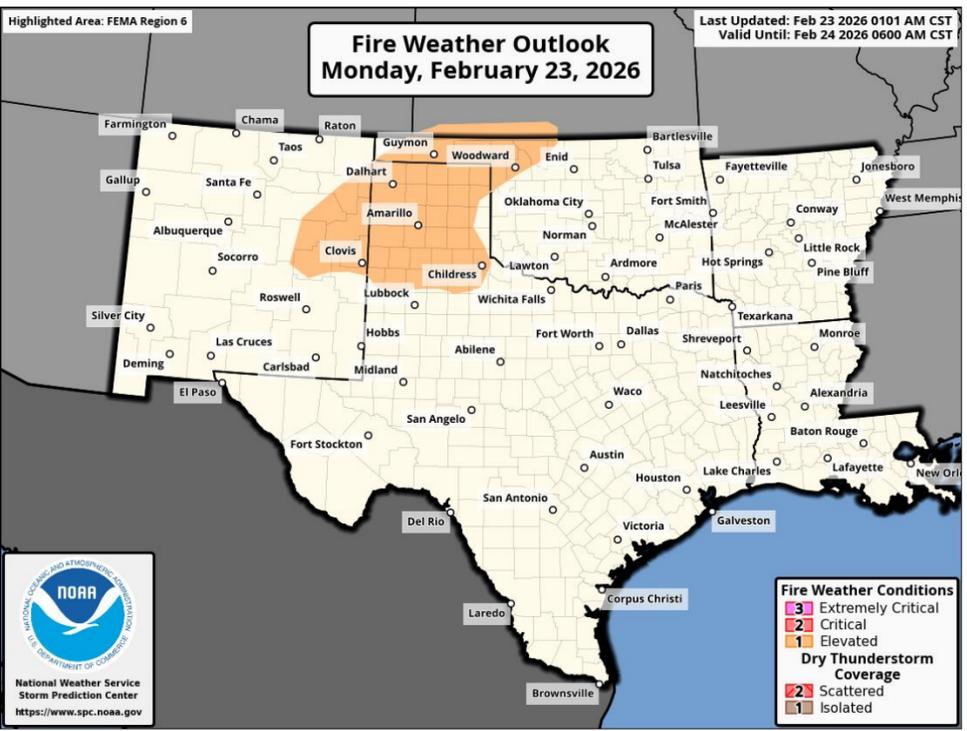
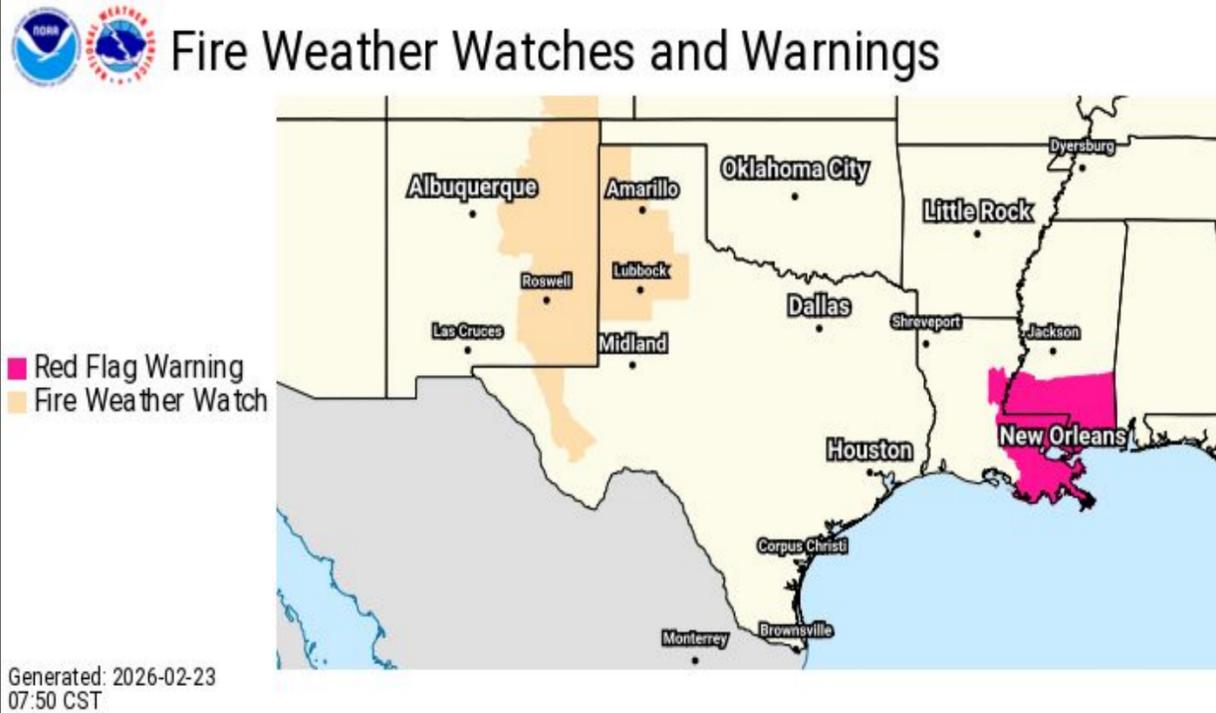
Red Flag Warning in effect for SE LA from 9 AM CT through 6 PM CT this afternoon.

Fire Weather Watches across E NM, W TX from 11 AM CT through 7 PM CT Tuesday.





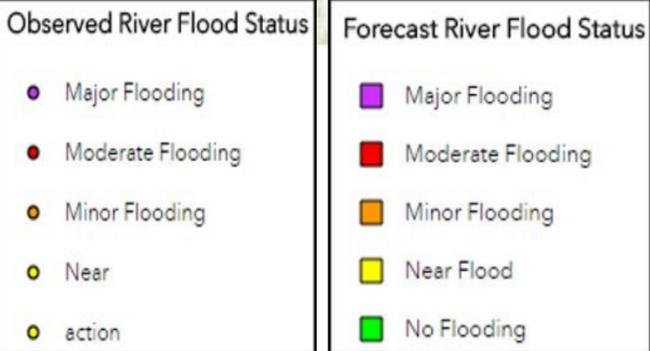
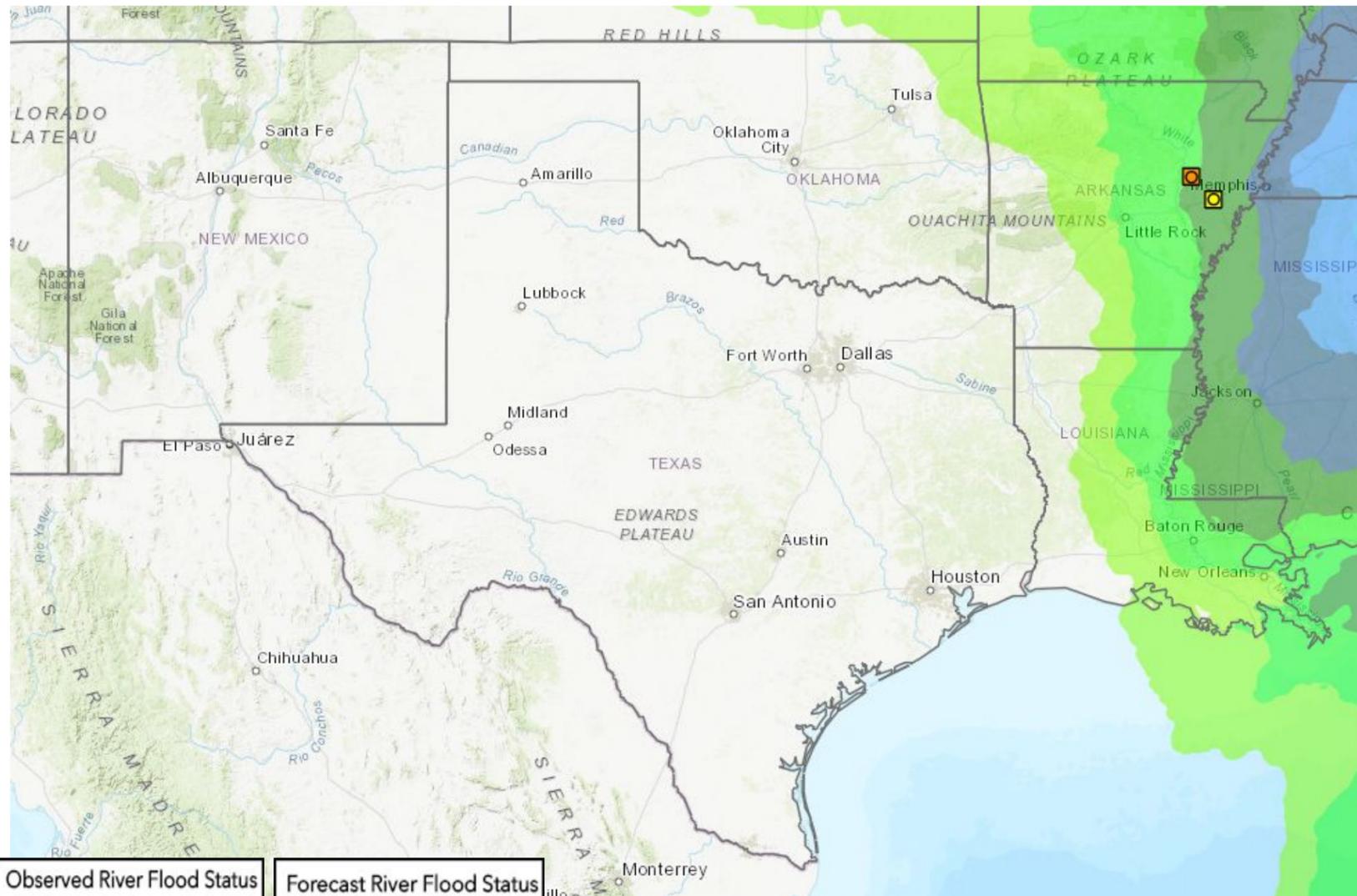
Fire Weather Outlooks





5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

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



Cache River at Patterson in NE AR is expected remain above minor flood stage through Wednesday evening. Secondary roads and pastures flooded.

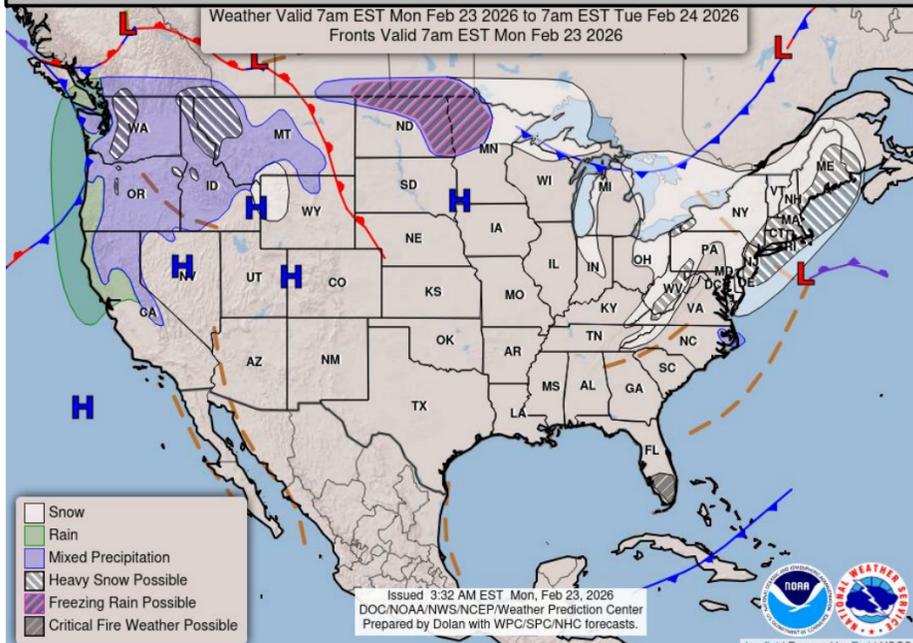
Note: Numerical levels (e.g. level 1 of 4) will not be assigned to riverine flooding due to the varying levels of impacts across flood categories.



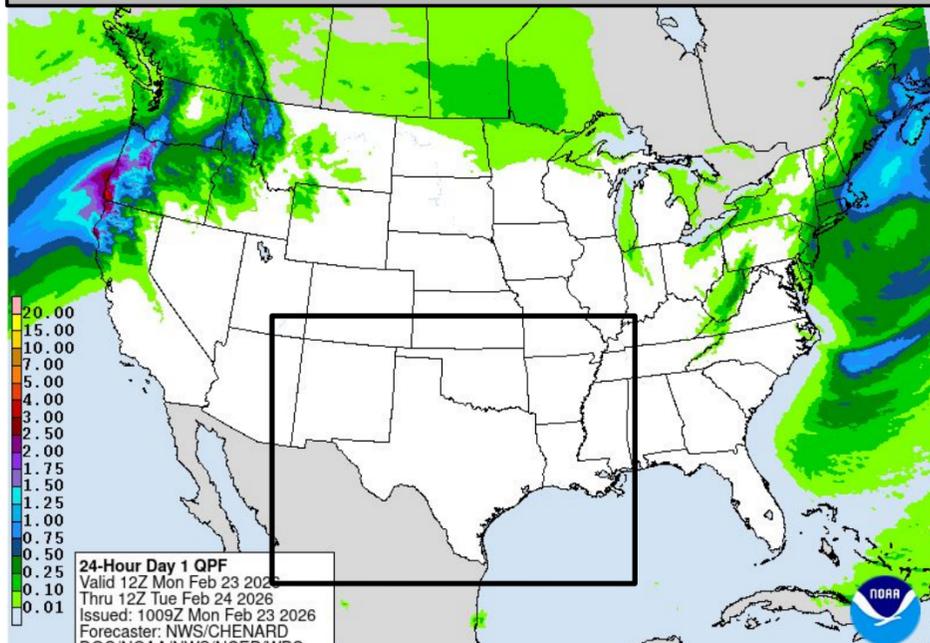


Today's Weather

Forecast Chart



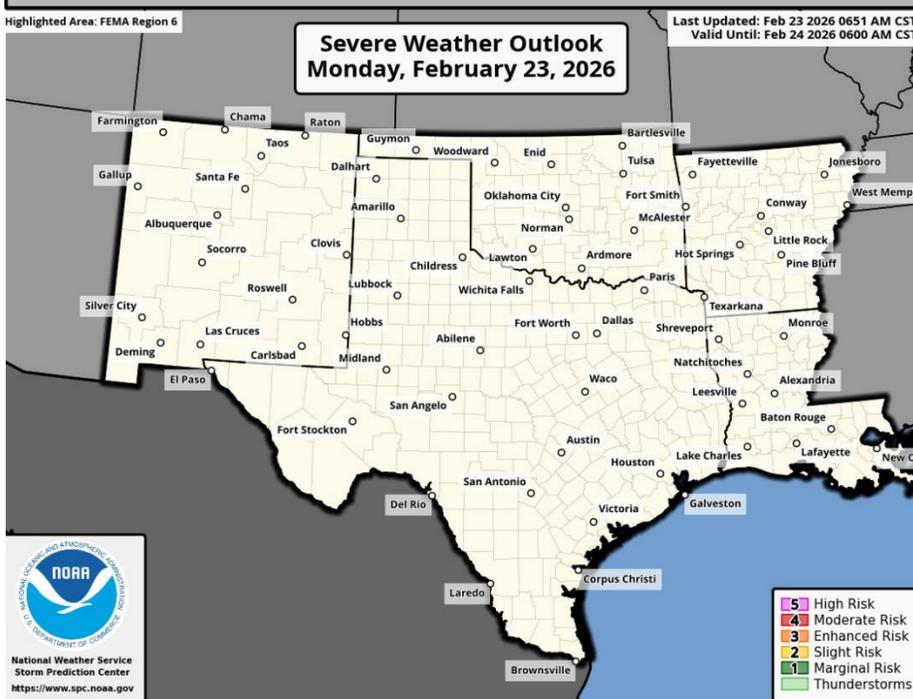
Forecast Rainfall



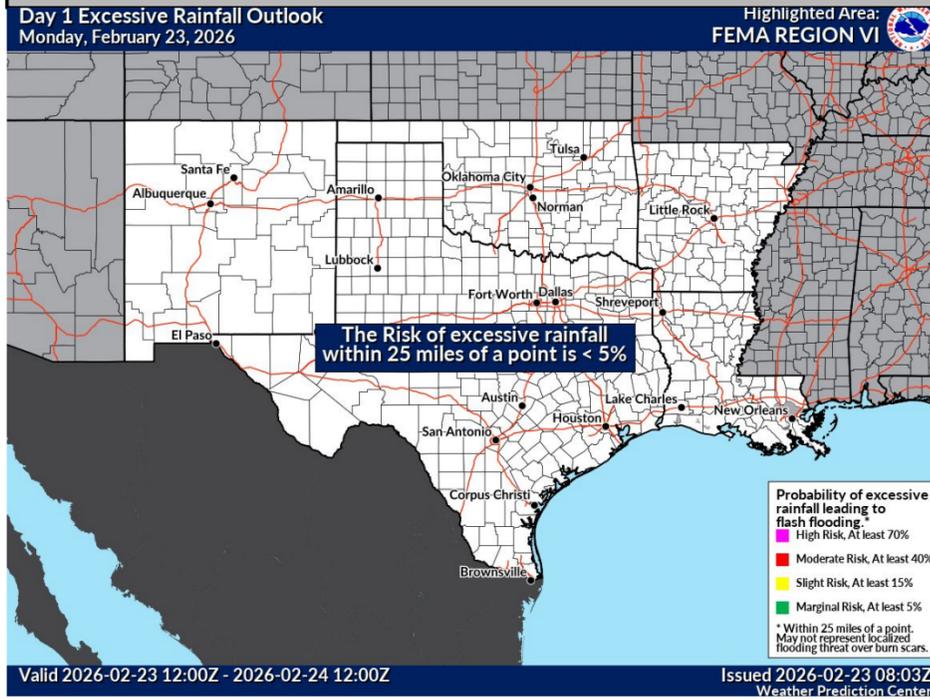
Critical (level 2 of 3) fire weather in SE LA.

Elevated (level 1 of 3) fire weather concerns in the TX/OK Panhandles and E NM.

Severe Weather Outlook

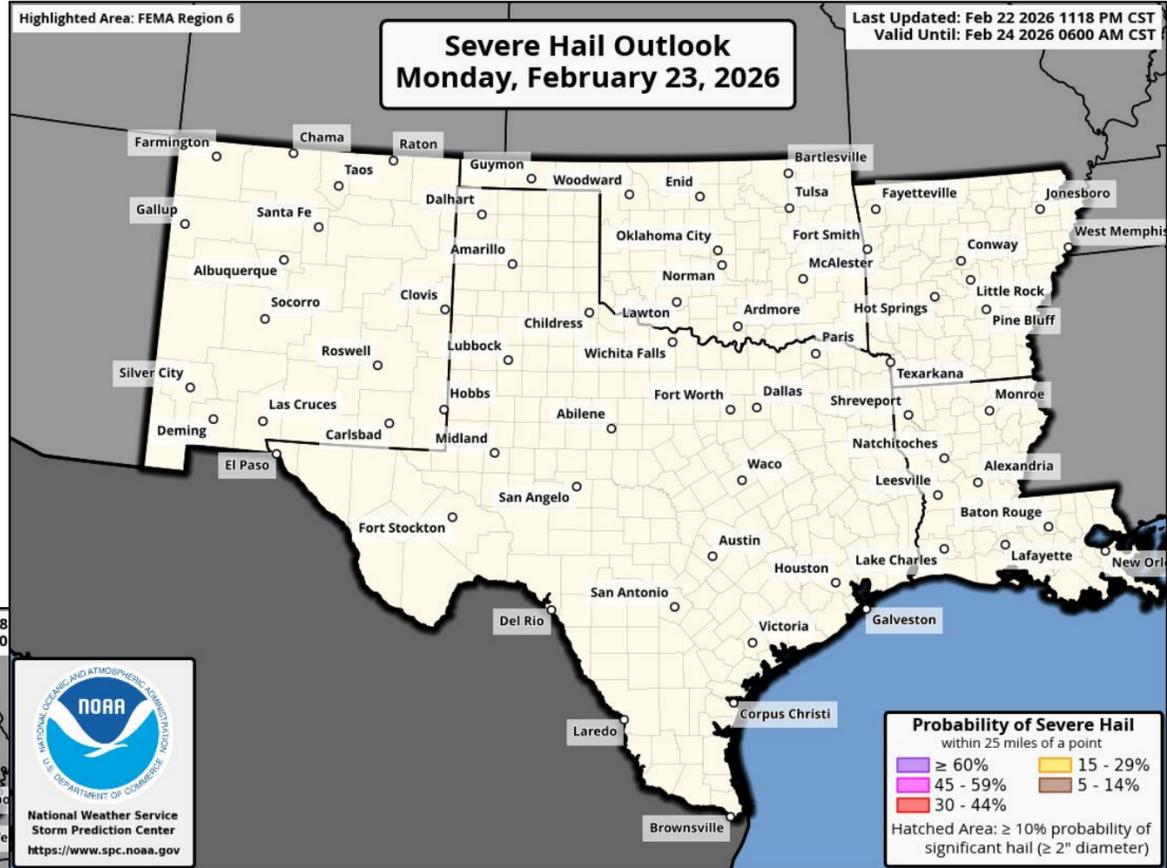
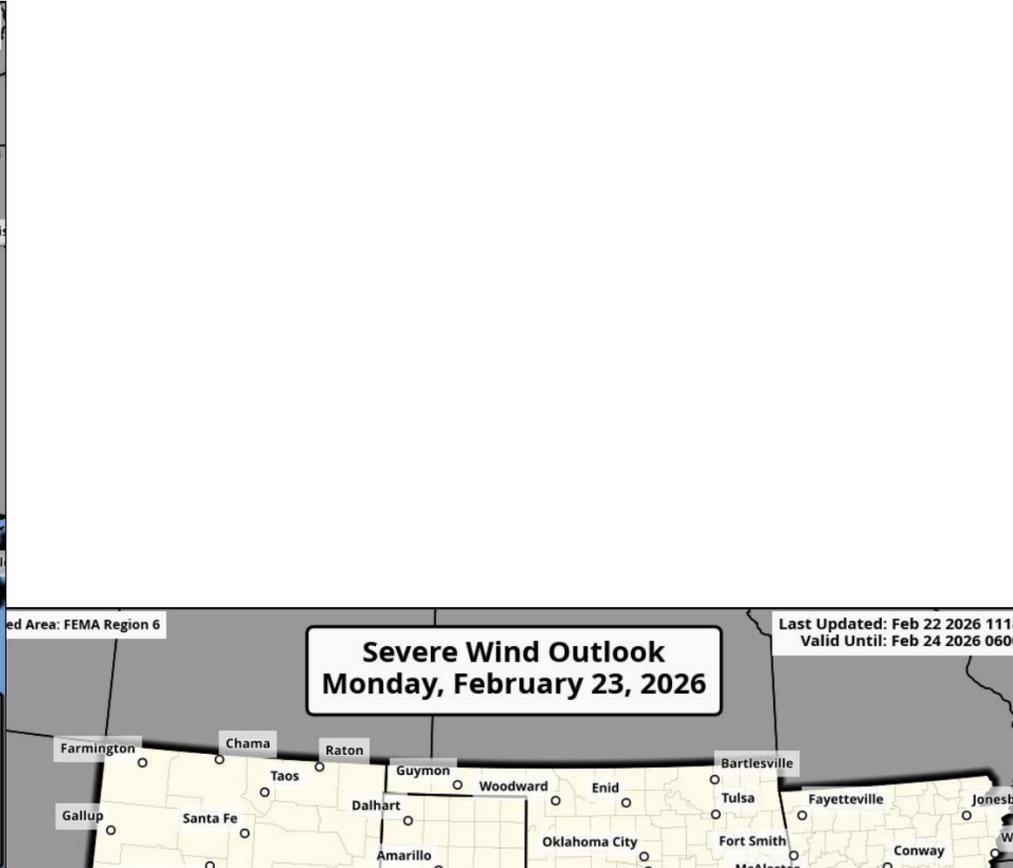
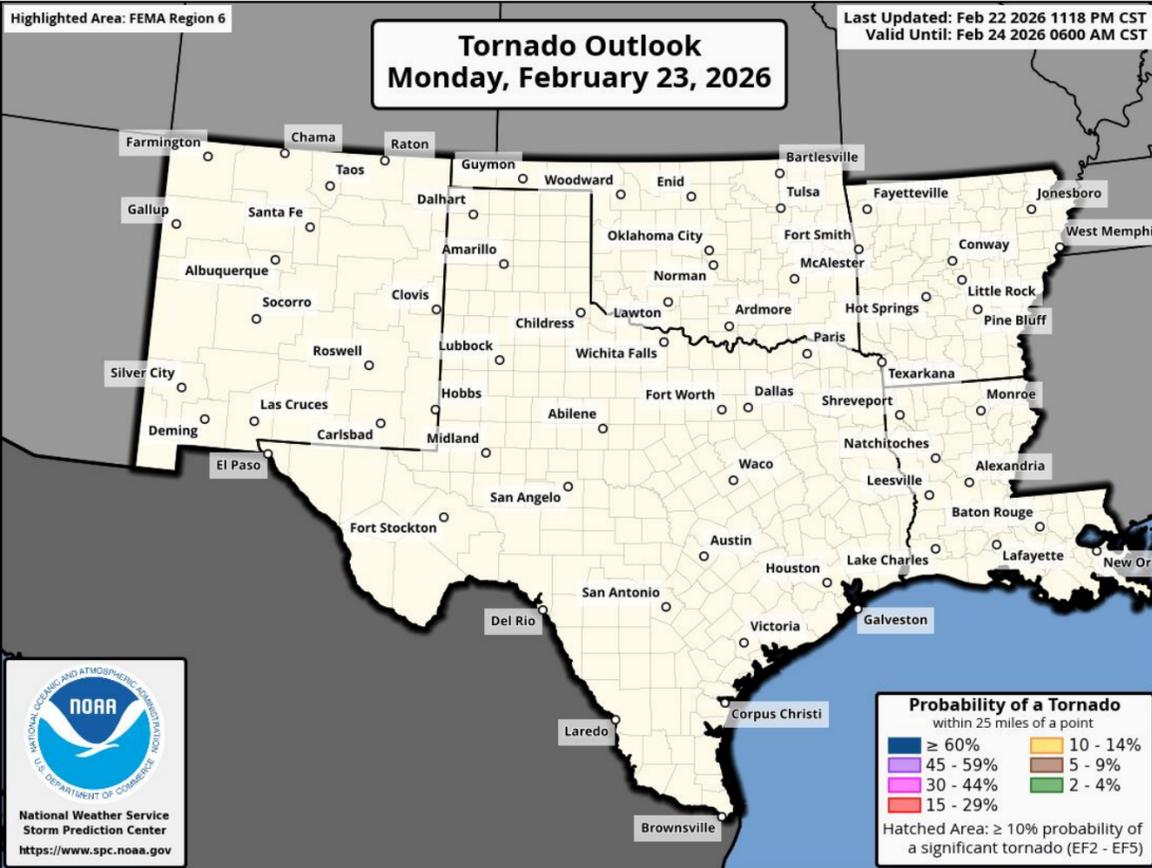


Excessive Rainfall Outlook



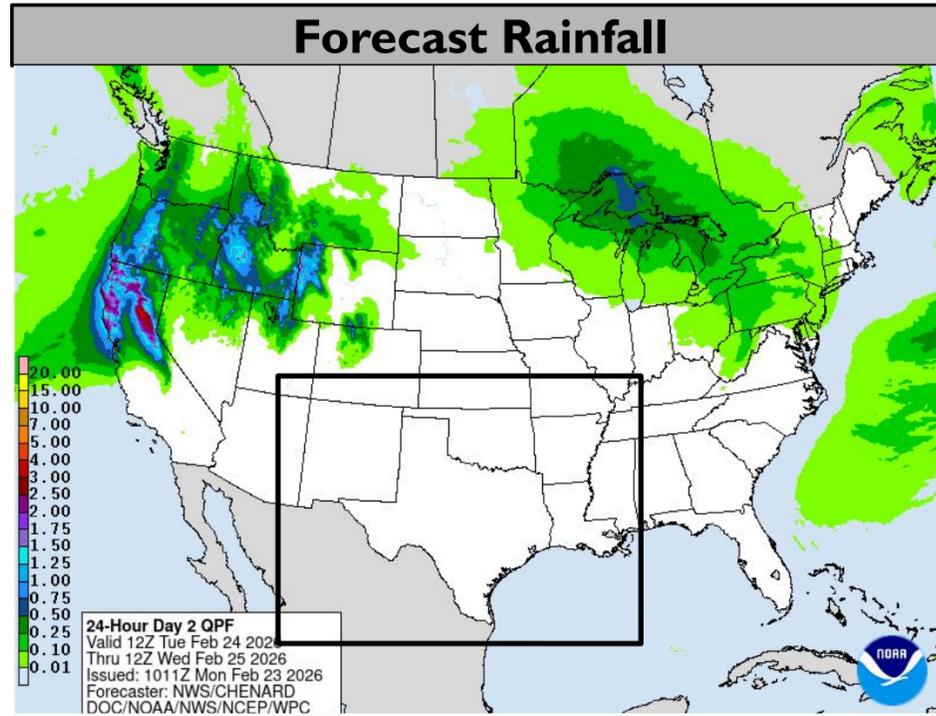
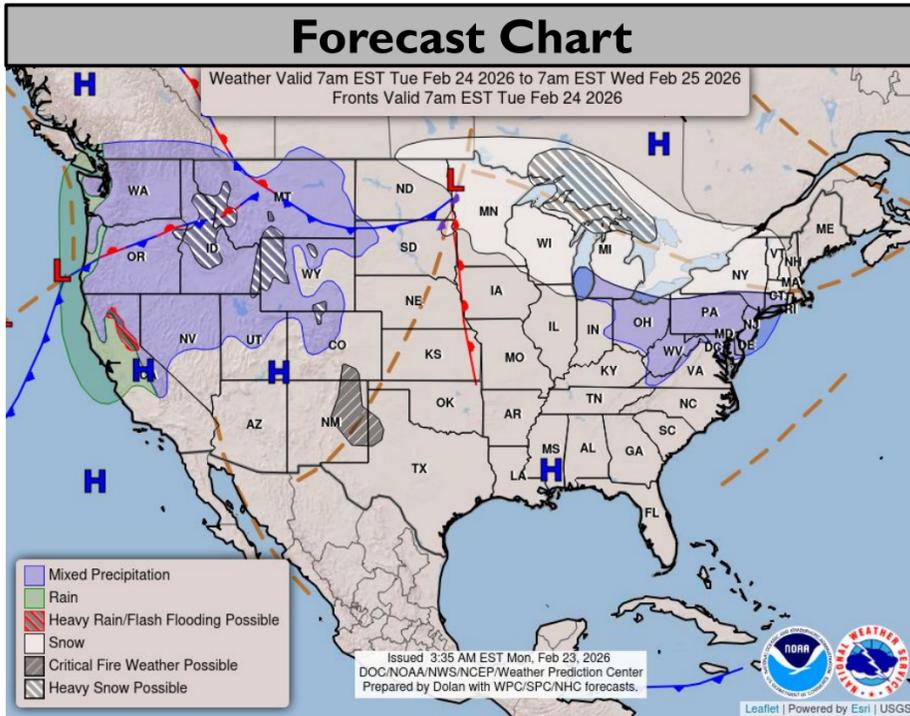


Today's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities

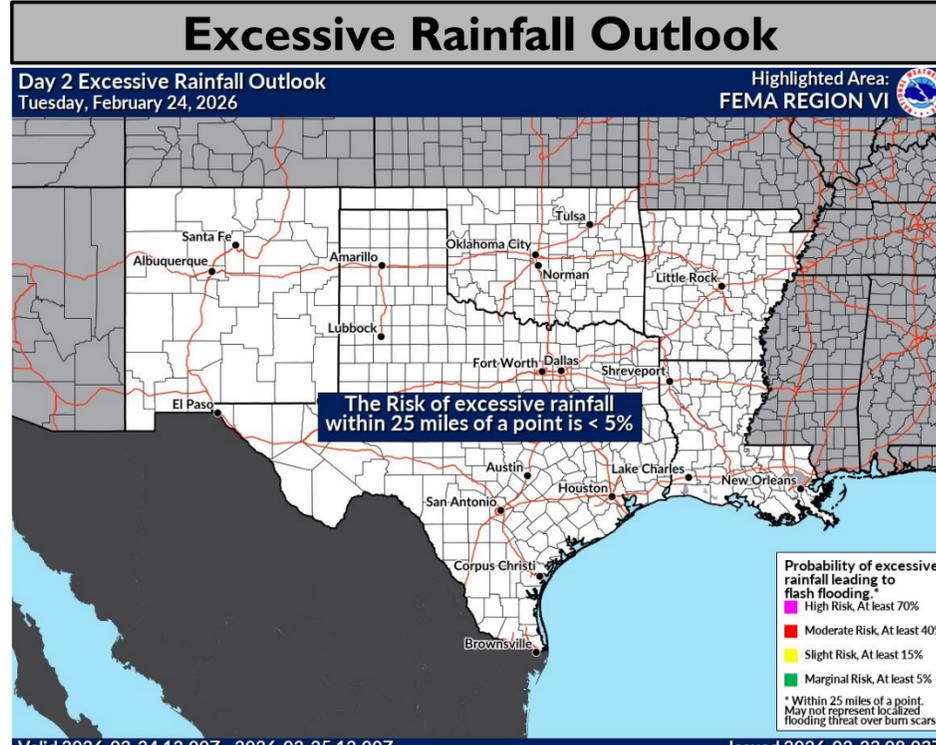
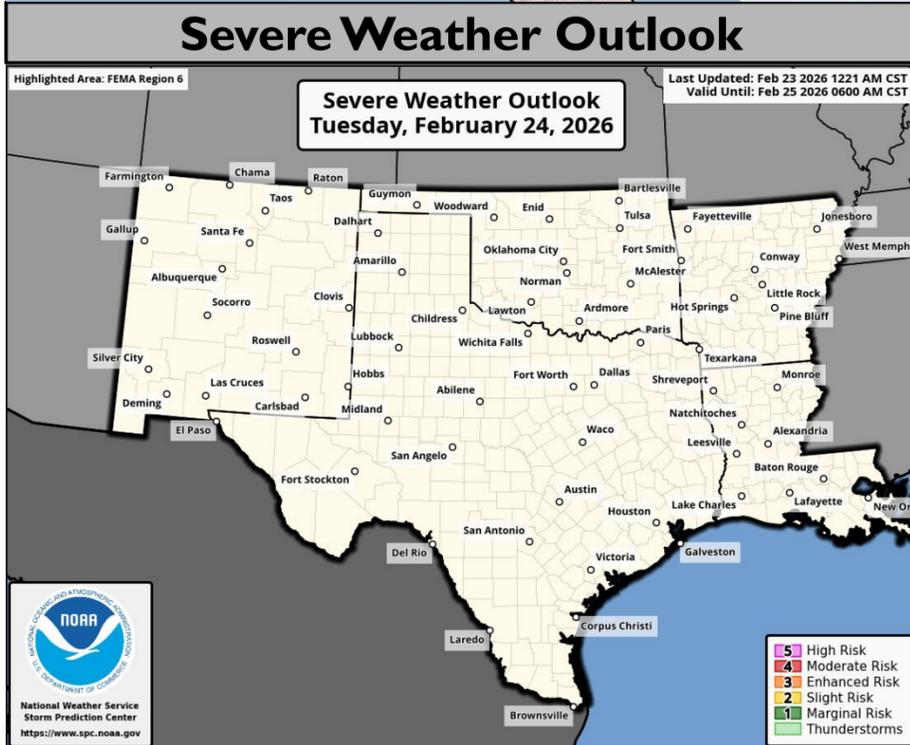




Tomorrow's Weather

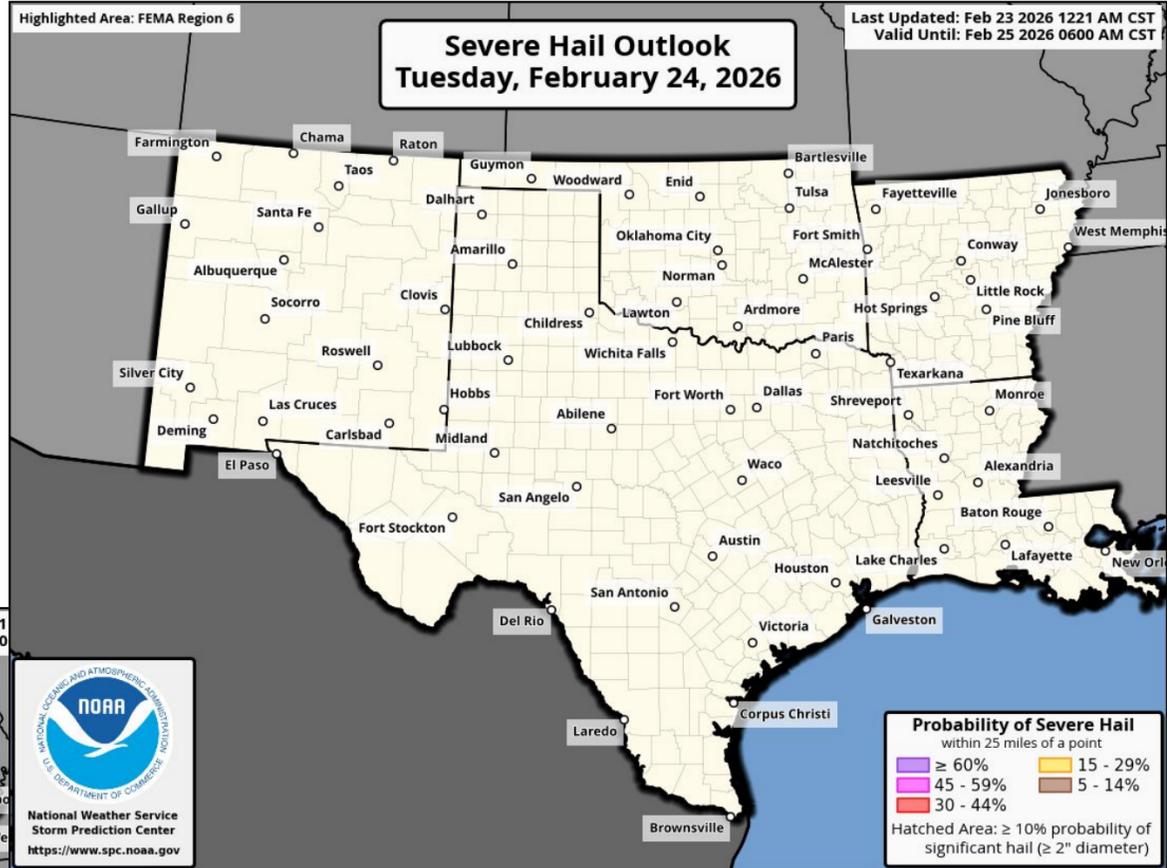
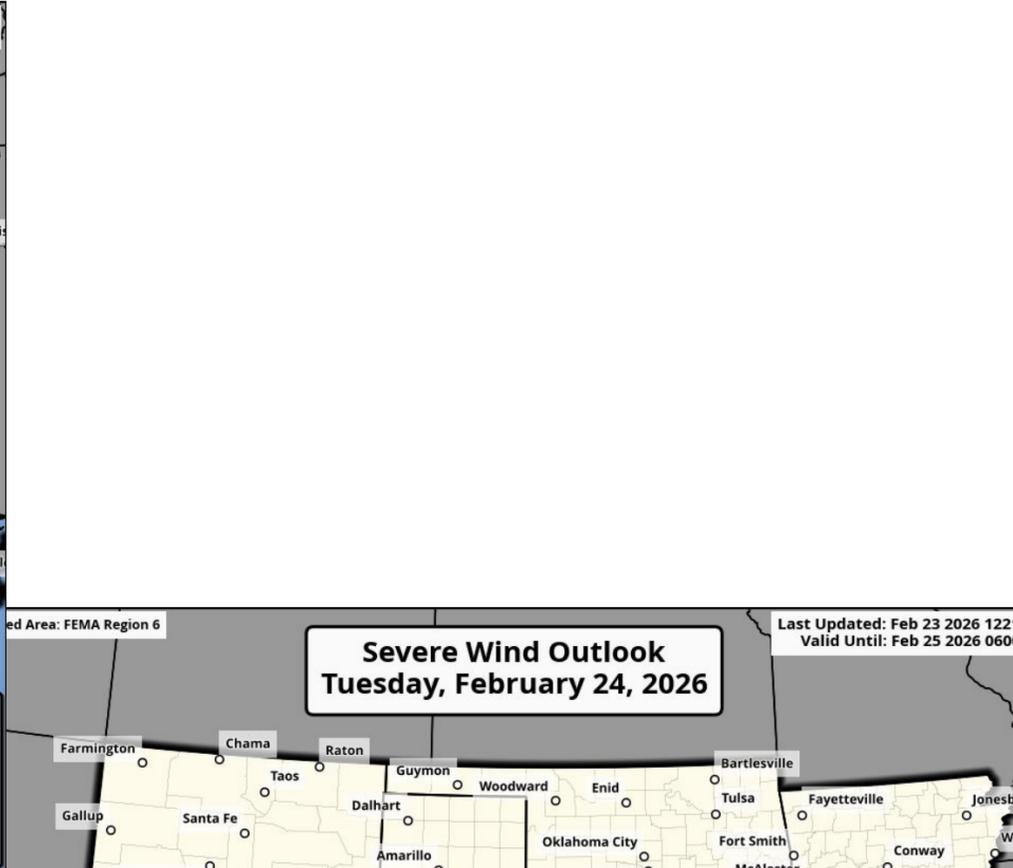
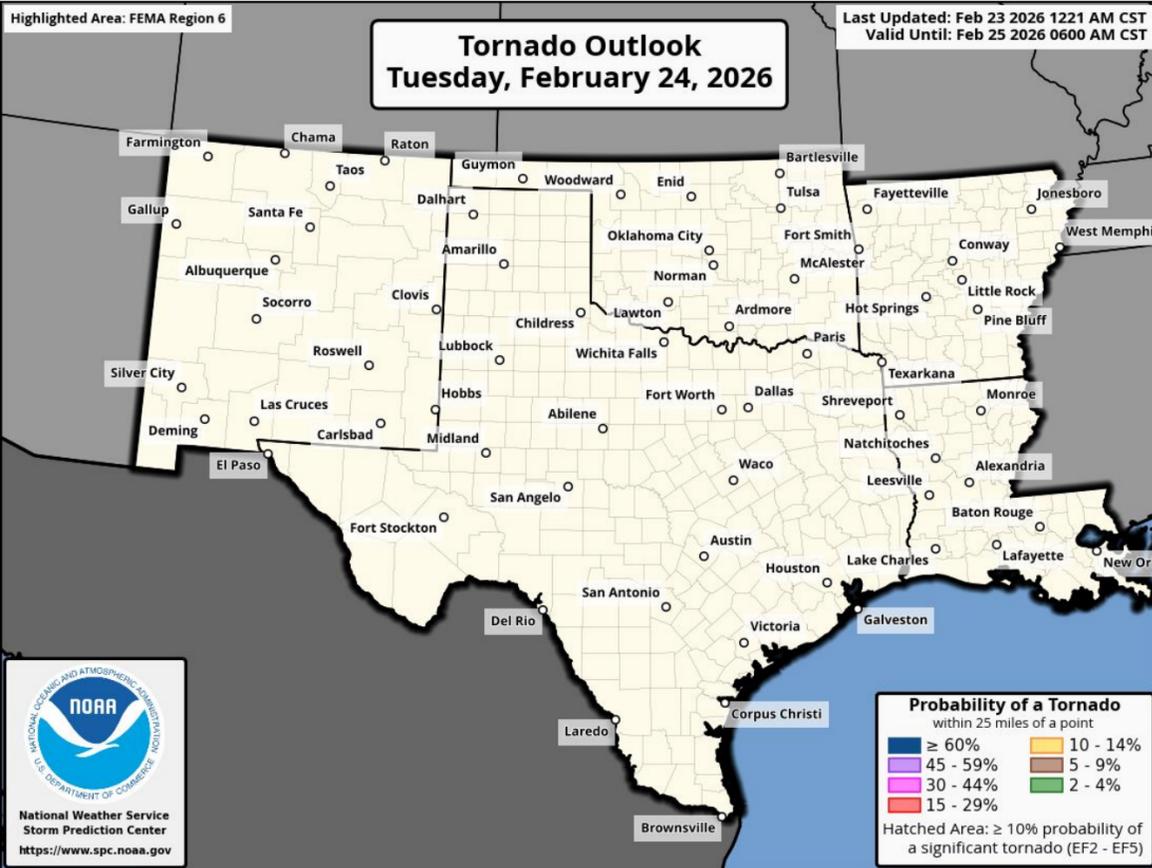


Elevated to critical (levels 1-2 of 3) fire weather conditions in E NM, TX Panhandle, OK, W/NW TX, NW AR.





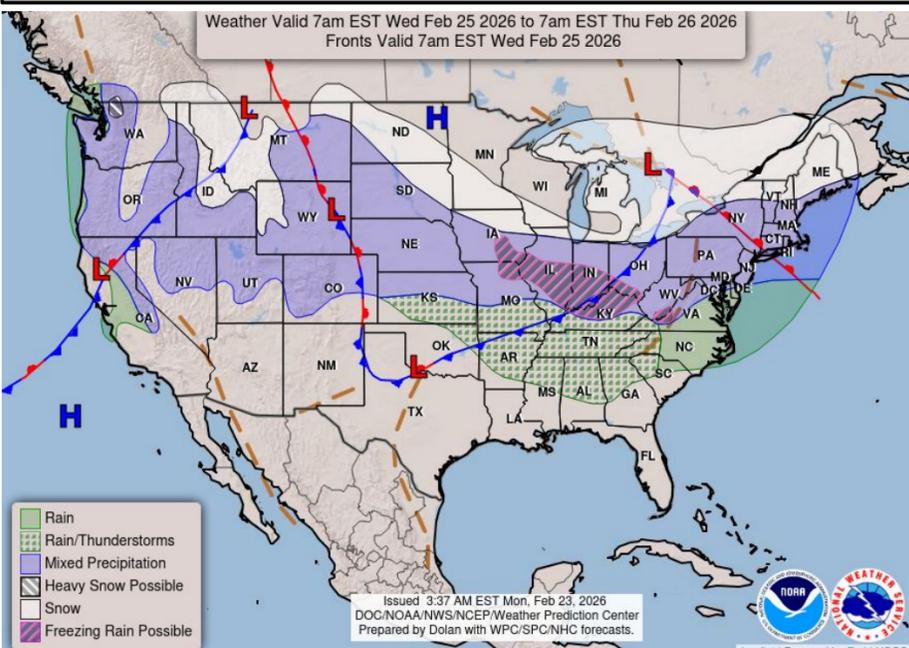
Tomorrow's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities



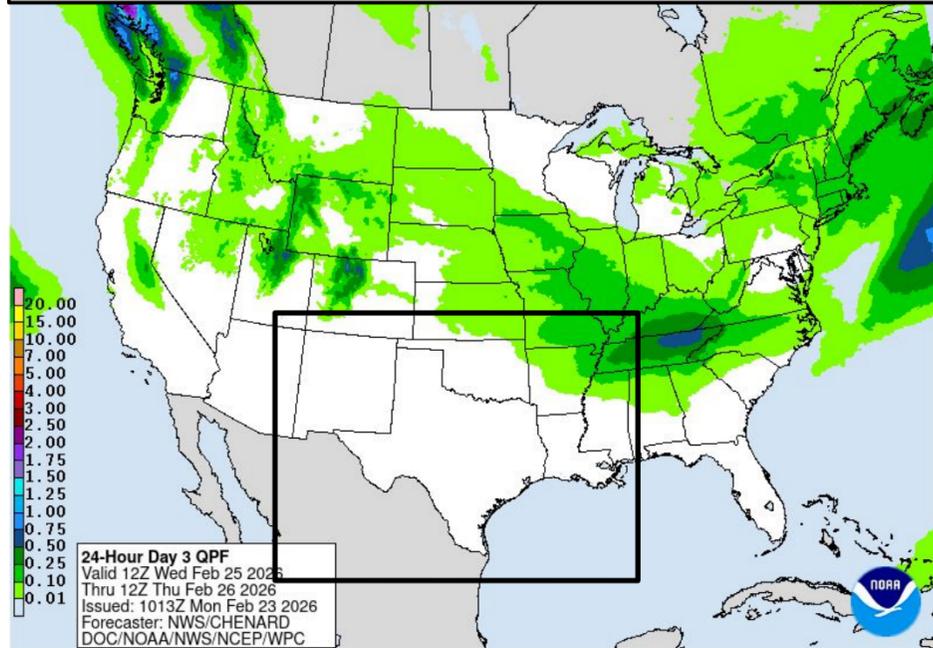


Wednesday's Weather

Forecast Chart

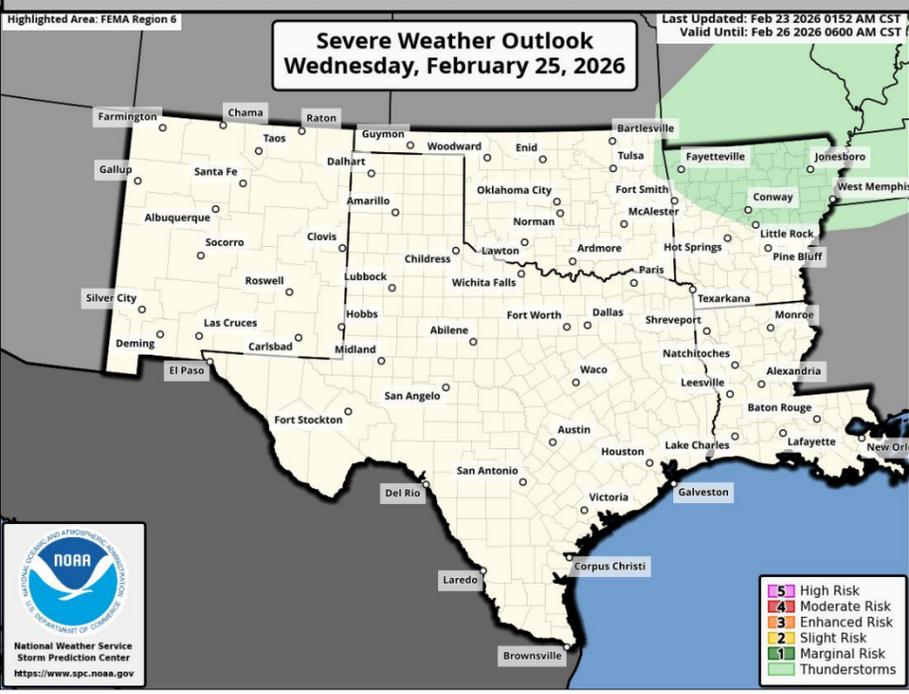


Forecast Rainfall

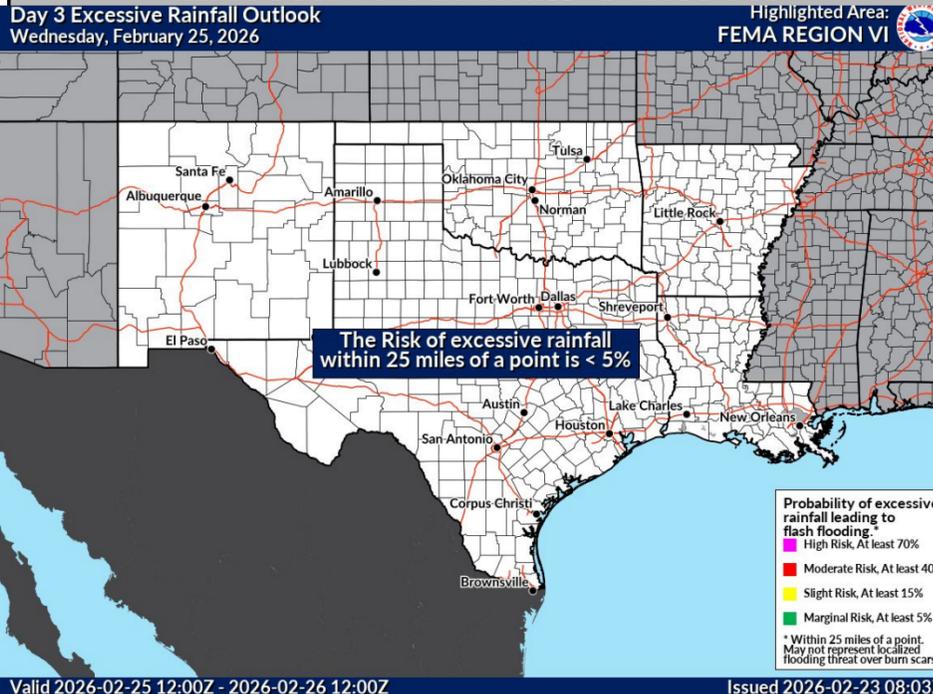


Elevated to critical (levels 1-2 of 3) fire weather conditions in E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, C-WTX.

Severe Weather Outlook



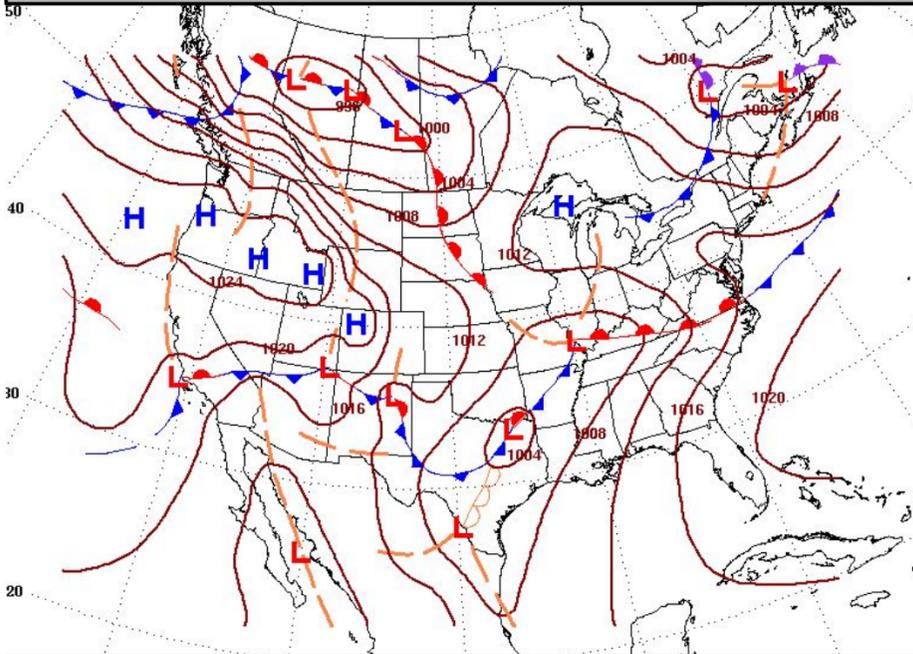
Excessive Rainfall Outlook



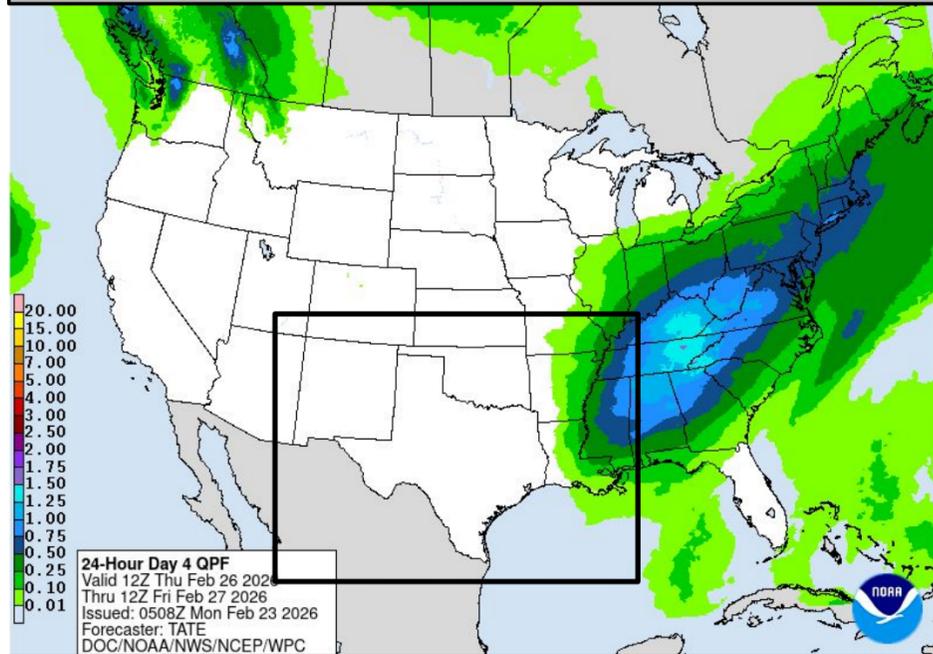


Thursday's Weather

Forecast Chart

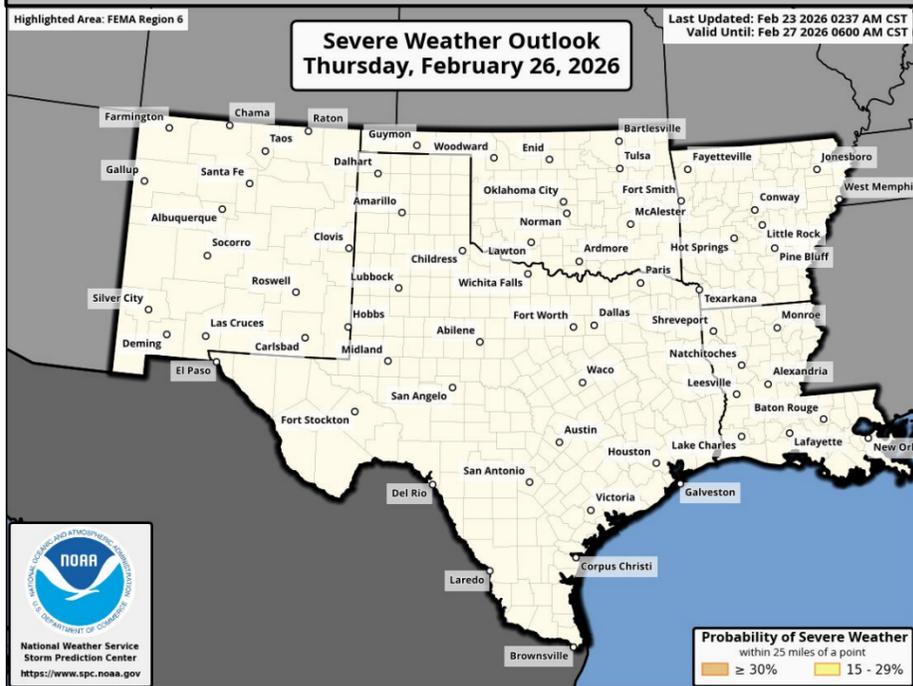


Forecast Rainfall

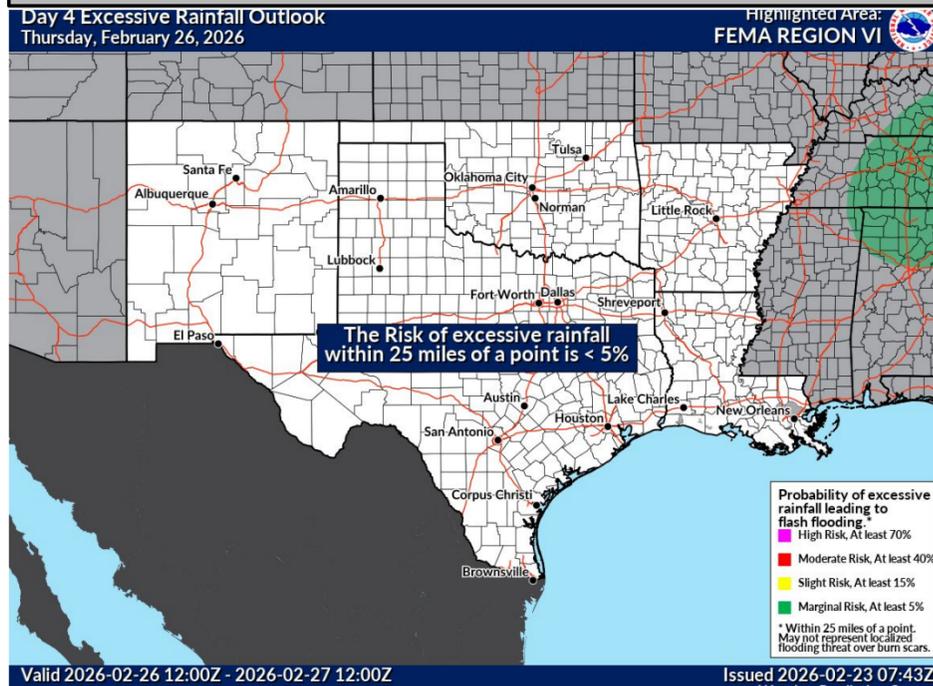


Monitoring C-S TX for fire weather concerns.

Severe Weather Outlook



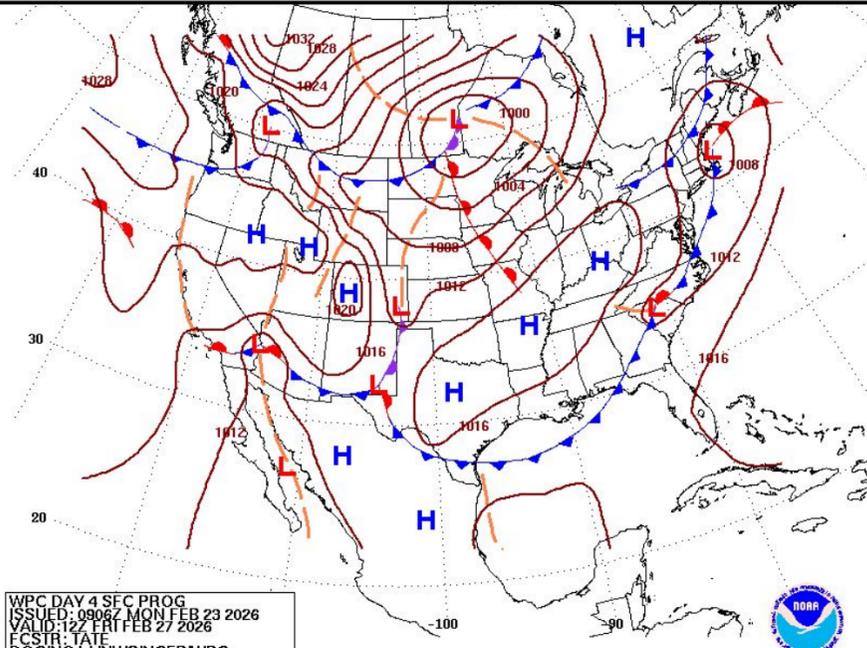
Excessive Rainfall Outlook





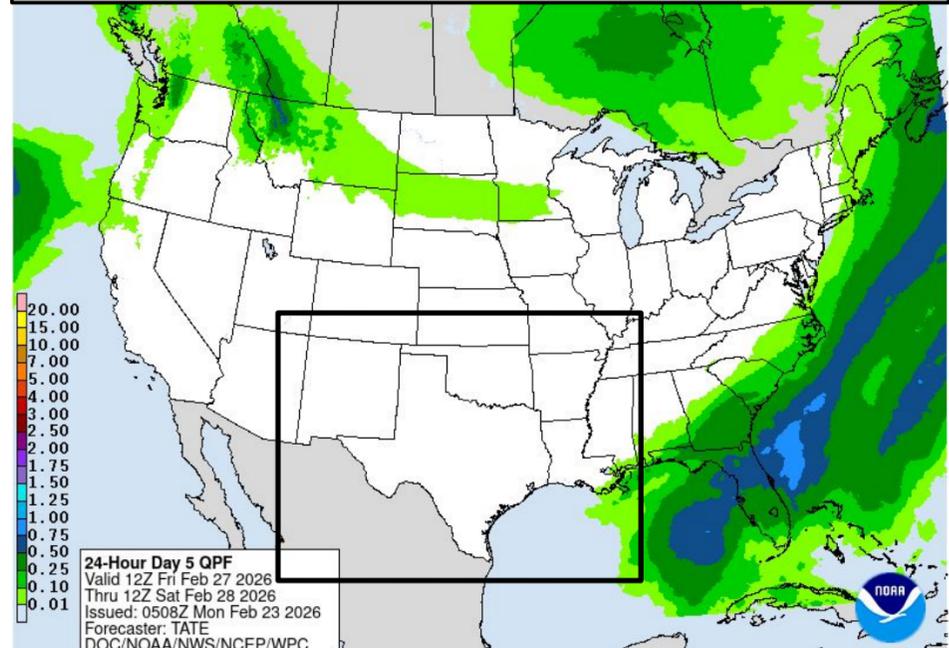
Friday's Weather

Forecast Chart



WPC DAY 4 SEC PROG
ISSUED: 0906Z MON FEB 23 2026
VALID: 12Z FRI FEB 27 2026
FCSTR: TATE
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

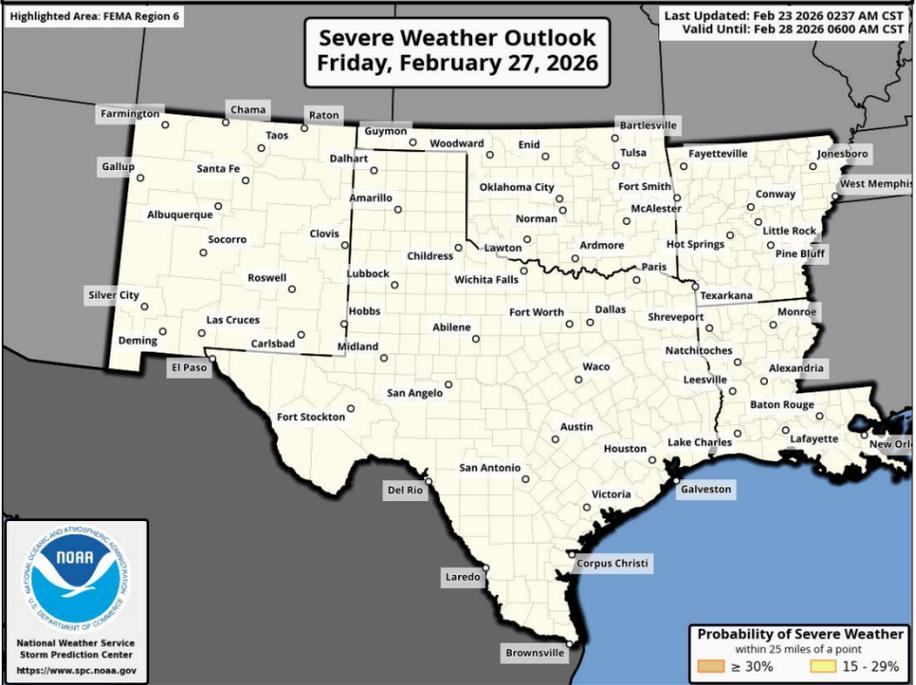
Forecast Rainfall



24-Hour Day 5 QPF
Valid 12Z Fri Feb 27 2026
Thru 12Z Sat Feb 28 2026
Issued: 0508Z Mon Feb 23 2026
Forecaster: TATE
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook

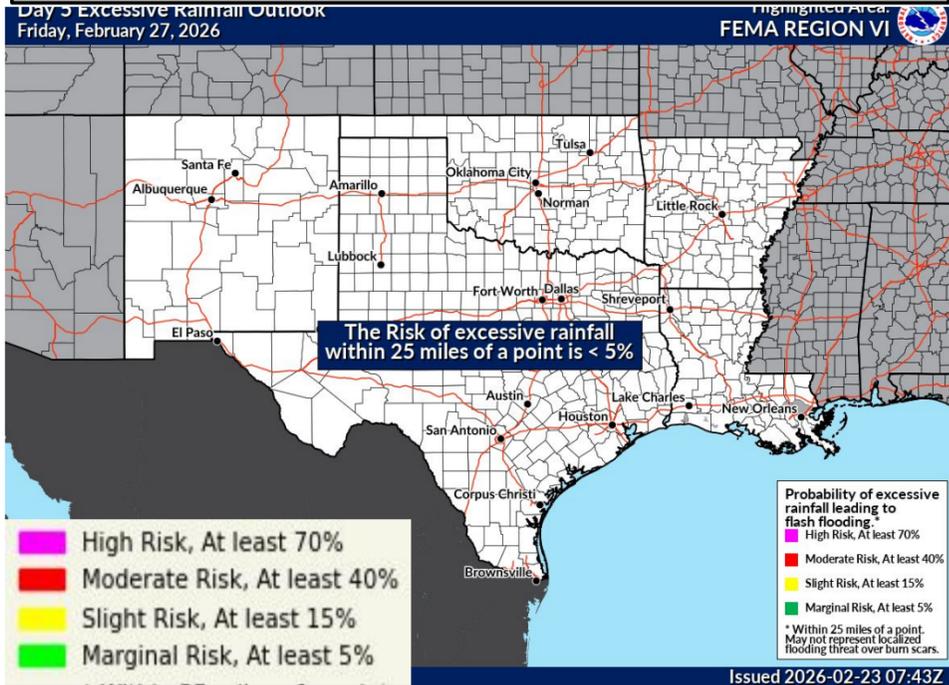


Severe Weather Outlook
Friday, February 27, 2026

Last Updated: Feb 23 2026 0237 AM CST
Valid Until: Feb 28 2026 0600 AM CST



Excessive Rainfall Outlook



Day 5 Excessive Rainfall Outlook
Friday, February 27, 2026

Highlighted Area:
FEMA REGION VI

The Risk of excessive rainfall
within 25 miles of a point is < 5%

- High Risk, At least 70%
- Moderate Risk, At least 40%
- Slight Risk, At least 15%
- Marginal Risk, At least 5%

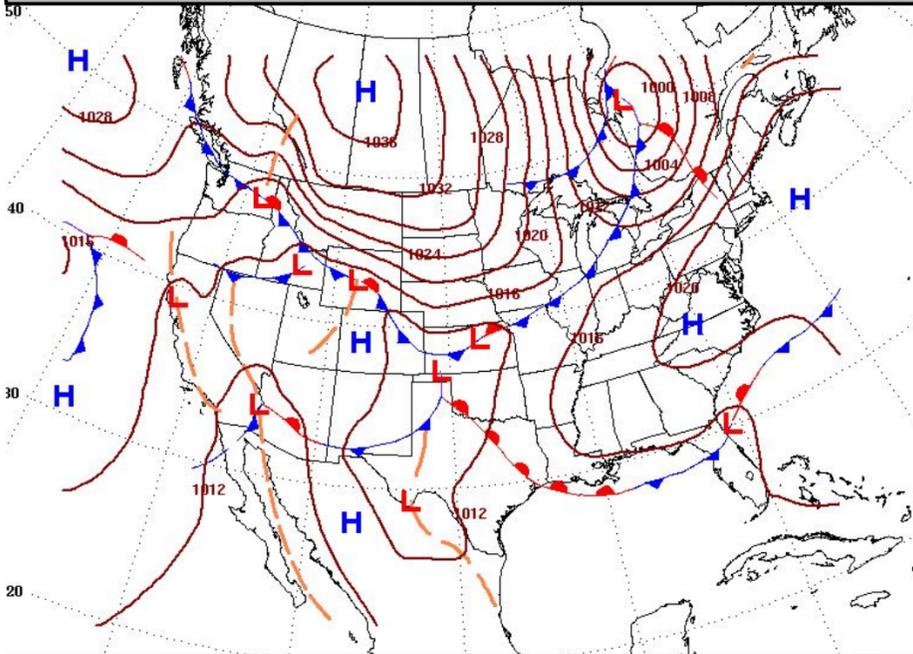
Probability of excessive rainfall leading to flash flooding:
* High Risk, At least 70%
Moderate Risk, At least 40%
Slight Risk, At least 15%
Marginal Risk, At least 5%
* Within 25 miles of a point. May not represent localized flooding threat over burn scars.

Issued 2026-02-23 07:43Z

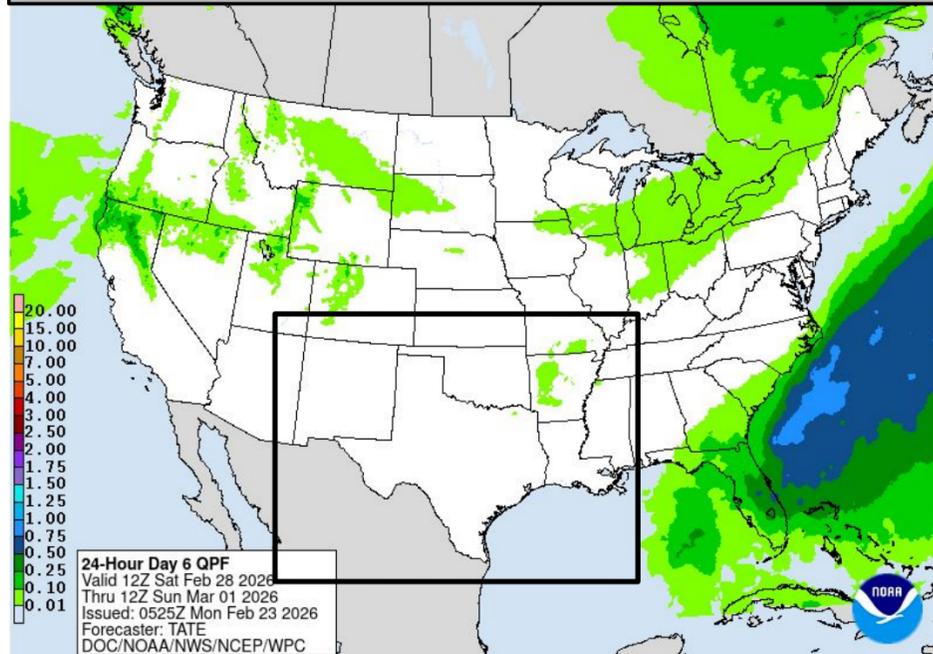


Saturday's Weather

Forecast Chart

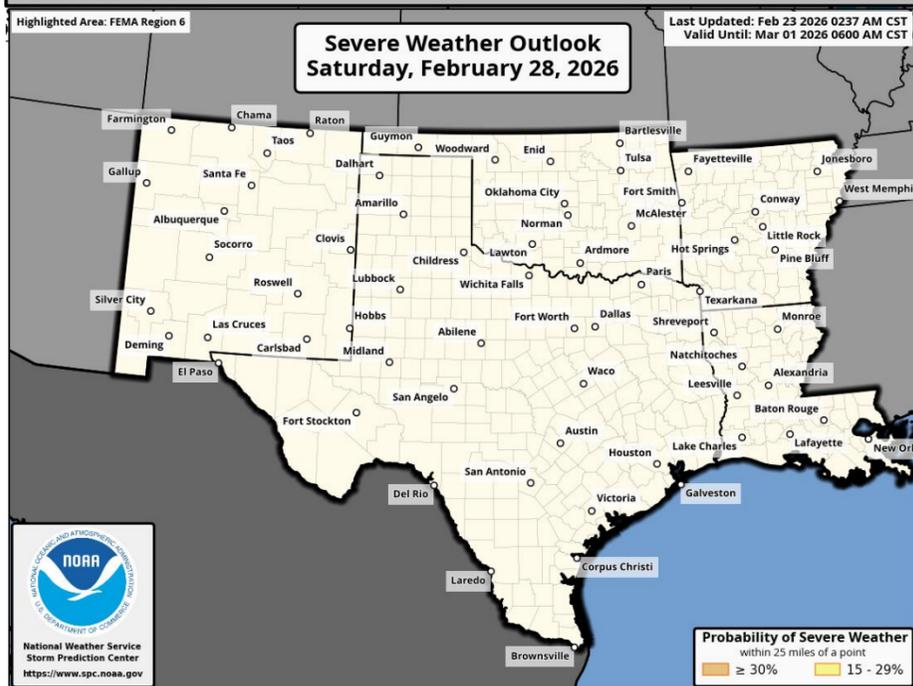


Forecast Rainfall



No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook

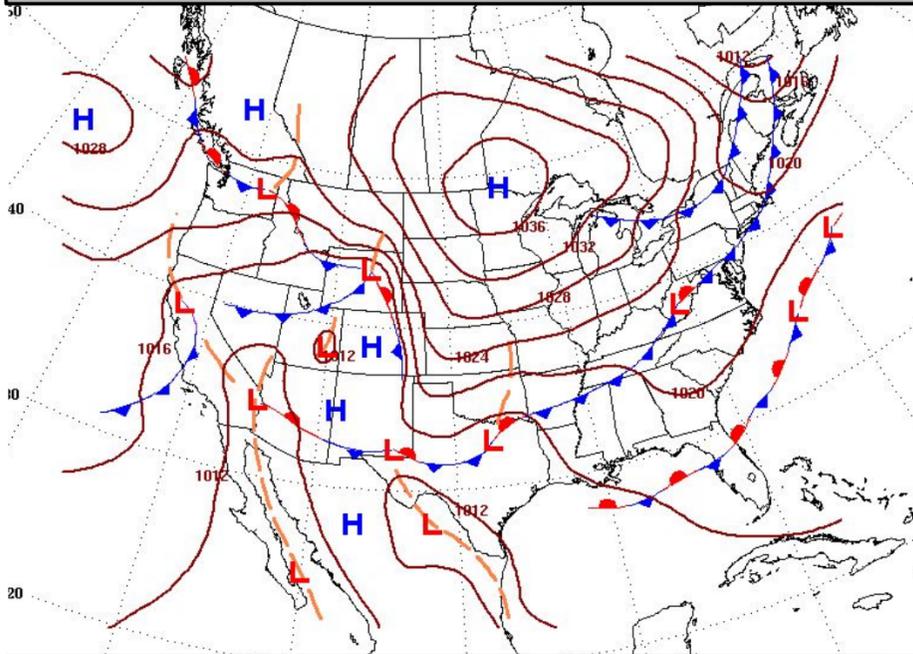


Excessive Rainfall Outlooks not available beyond Day 5

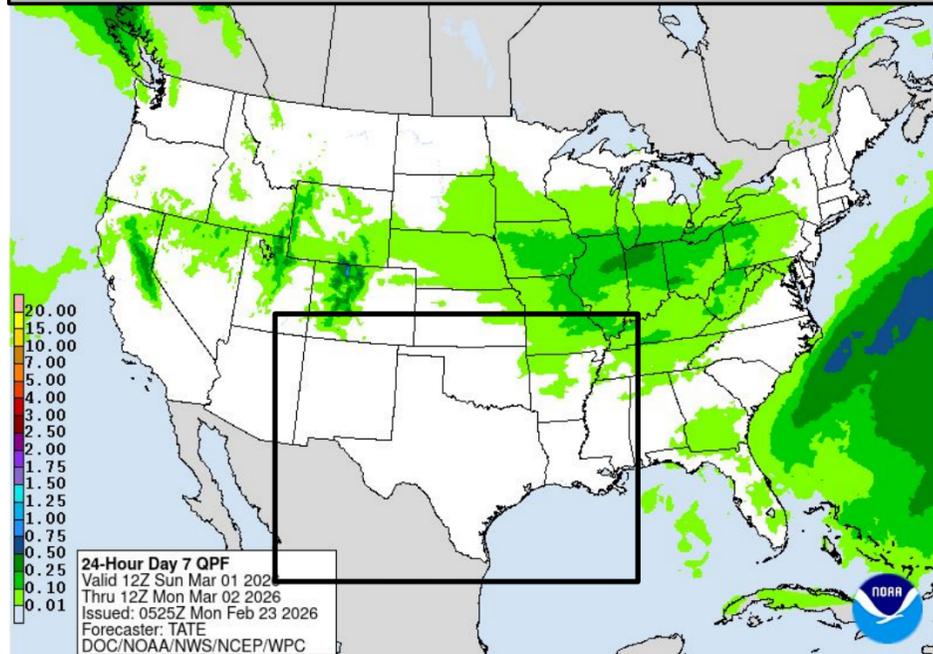


Sunday's Weather

Forecast Chart

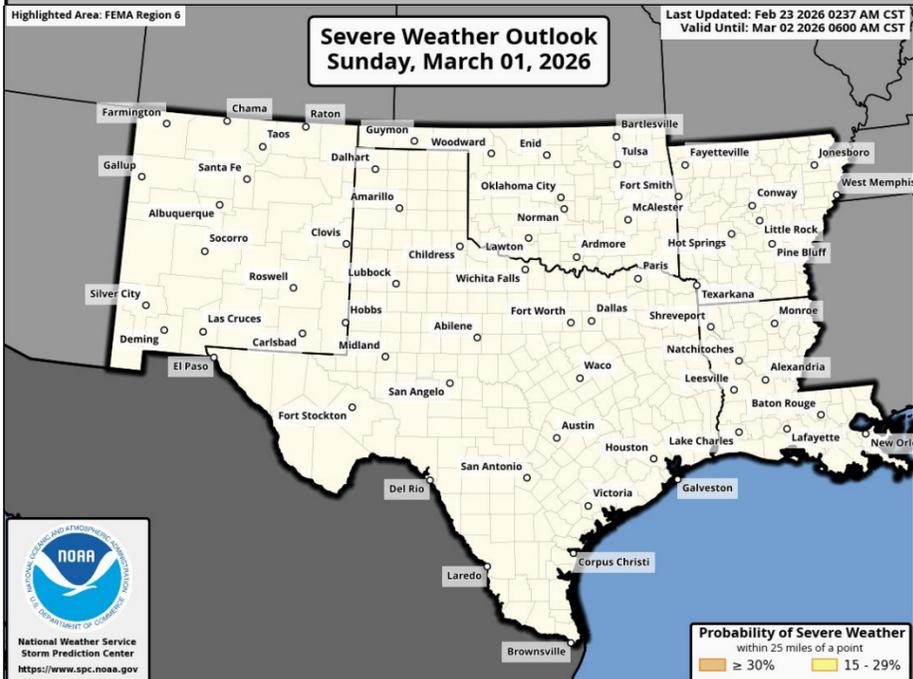


Forecast Rainfall



No significant weather expected.

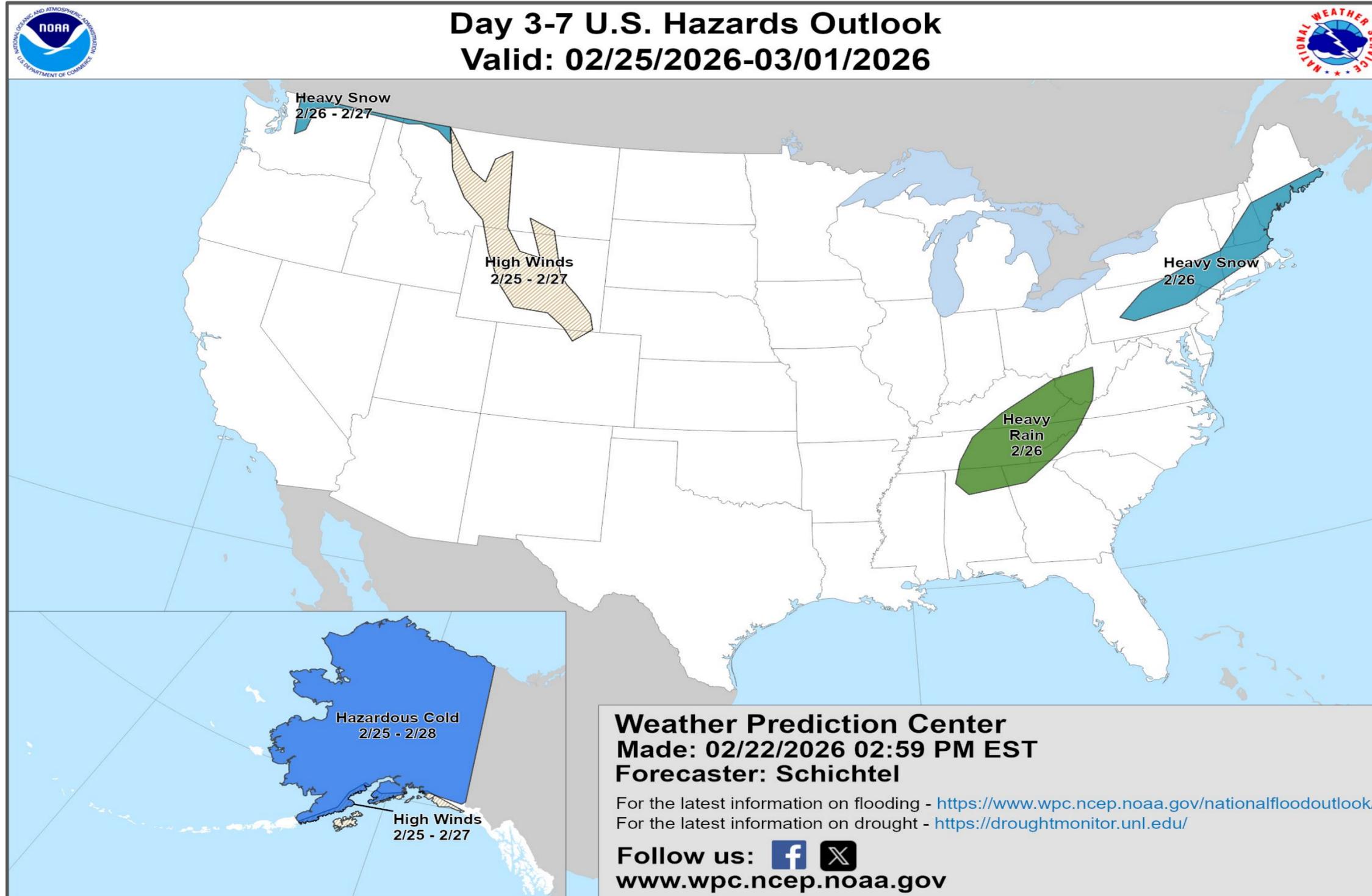
Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlooks not available beyond Day 5

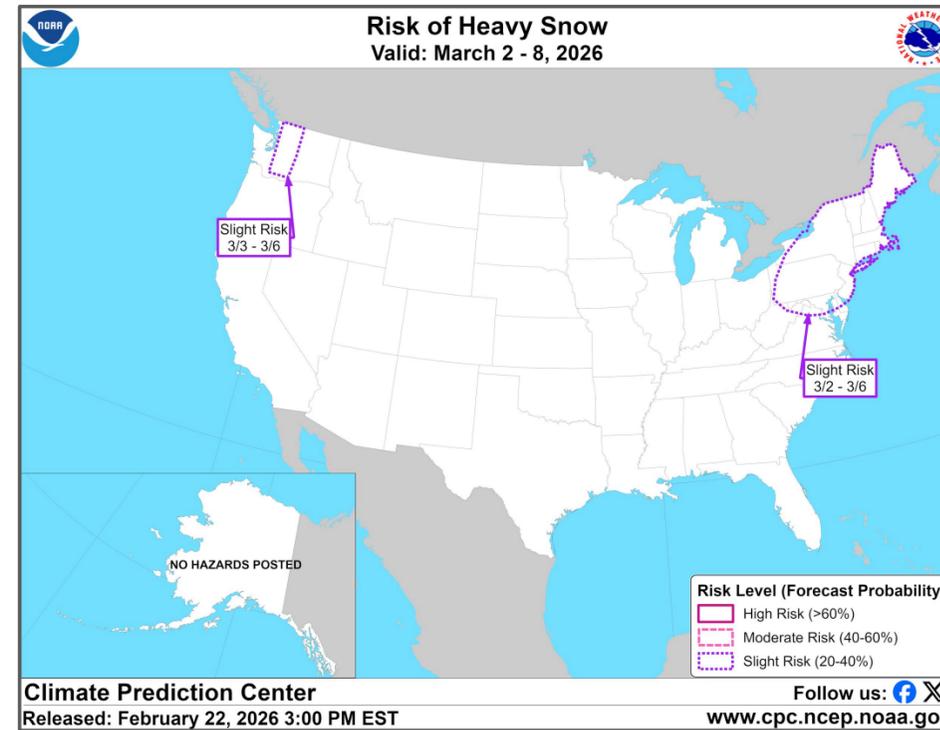
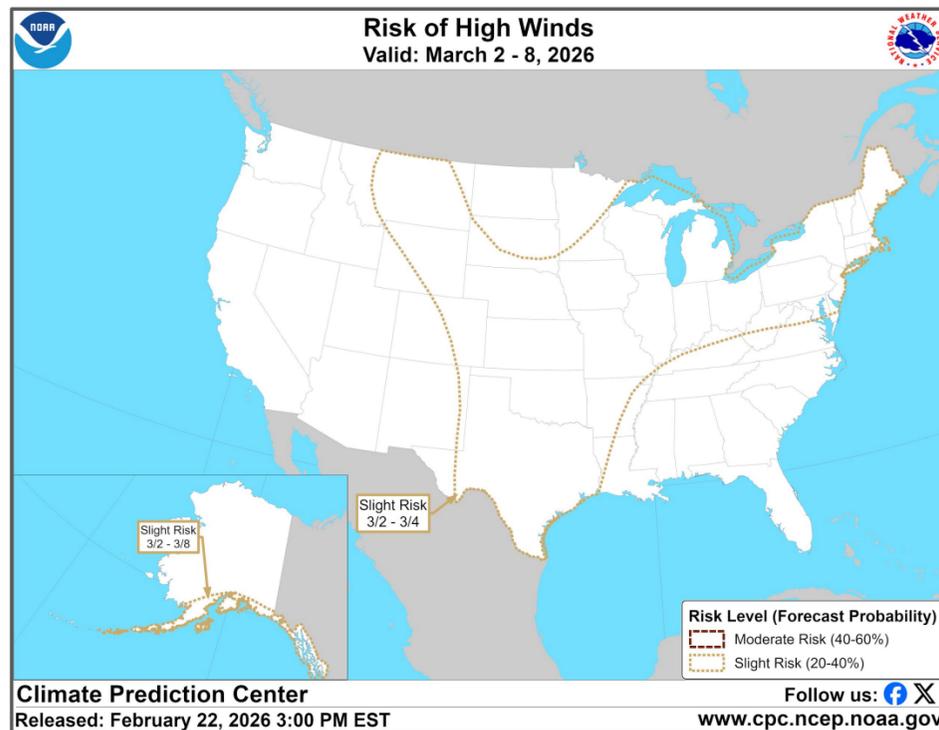
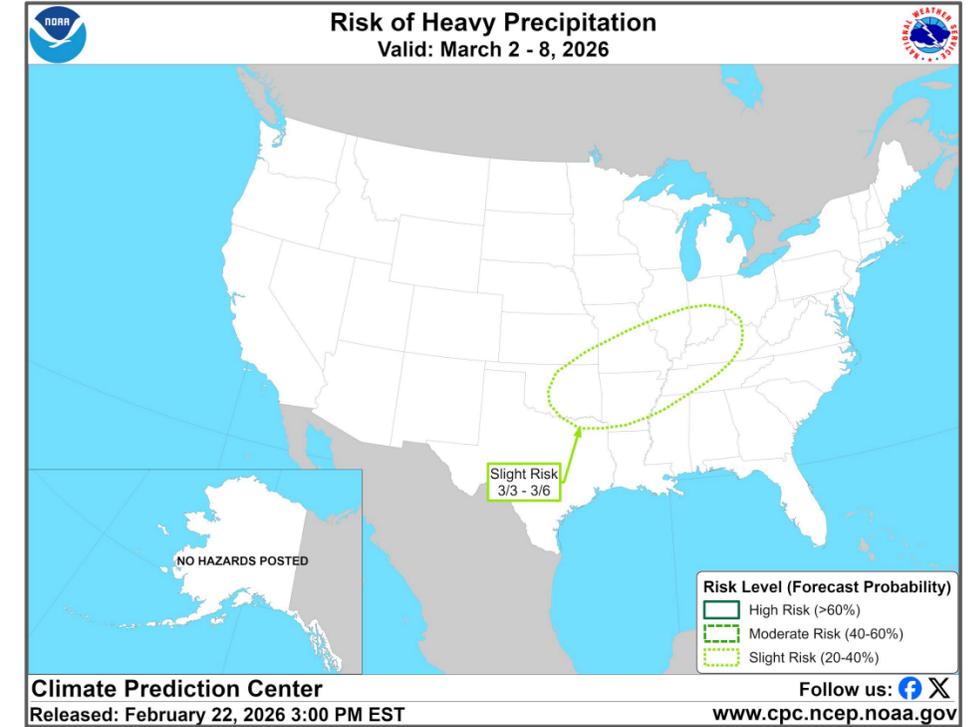
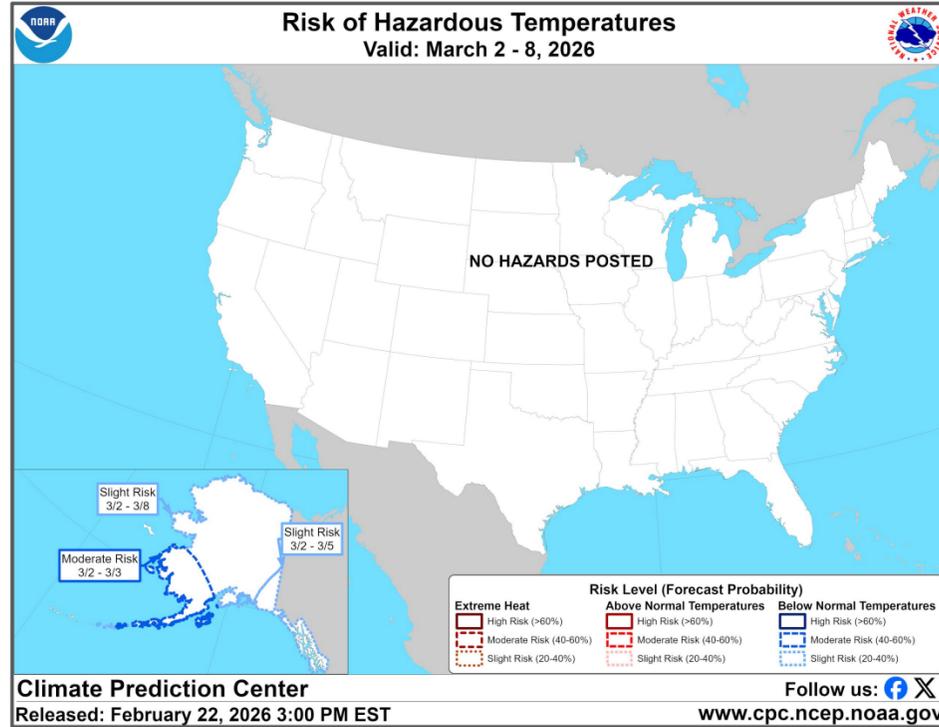
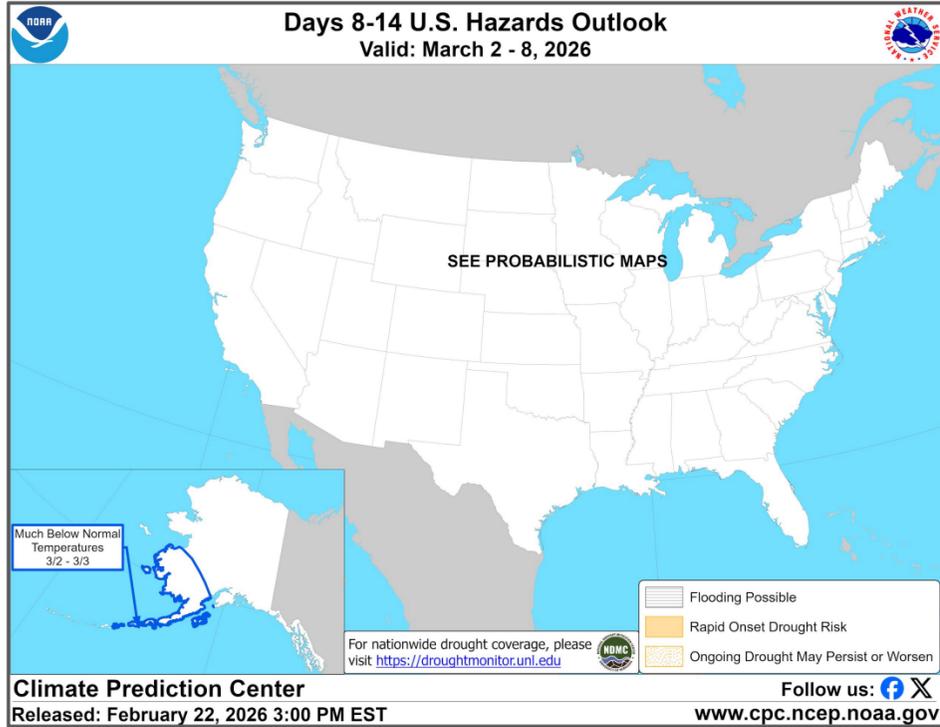


“Day 3-7” Hazards Outlook





"Day 8-14" Hazards Outlook

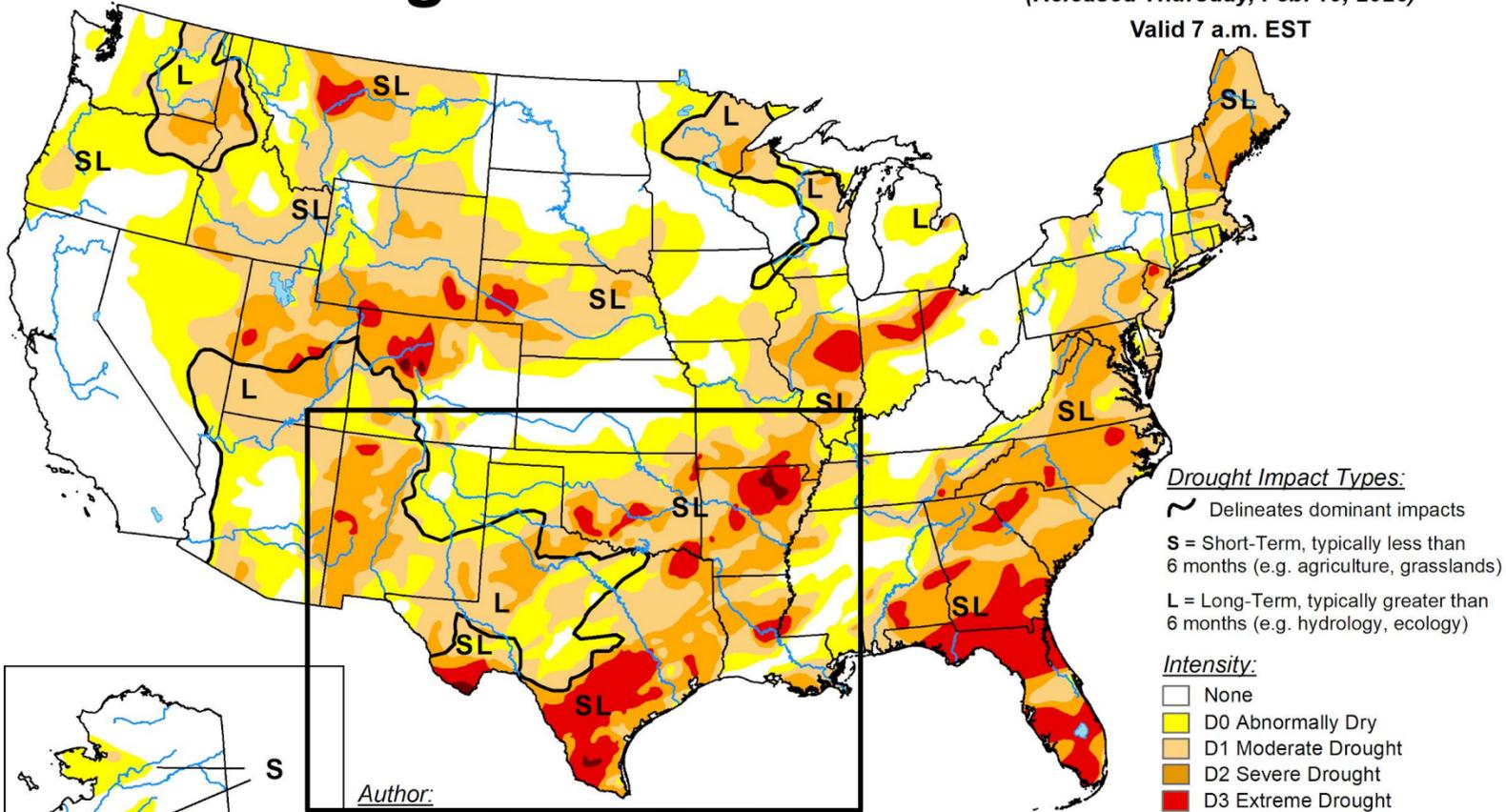




Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 17, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Impact Types:
~ Delineates dominant impacts
S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

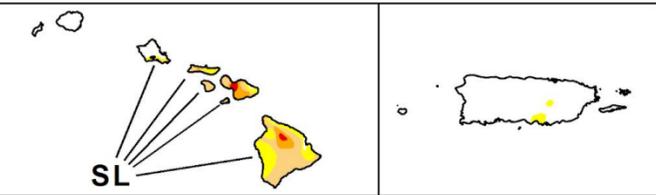
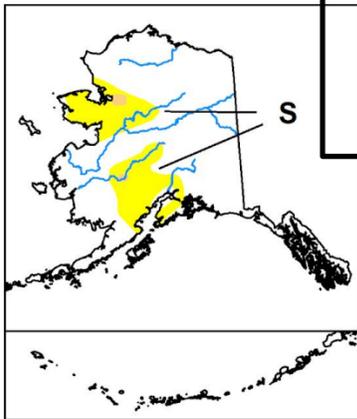
Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

Author:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

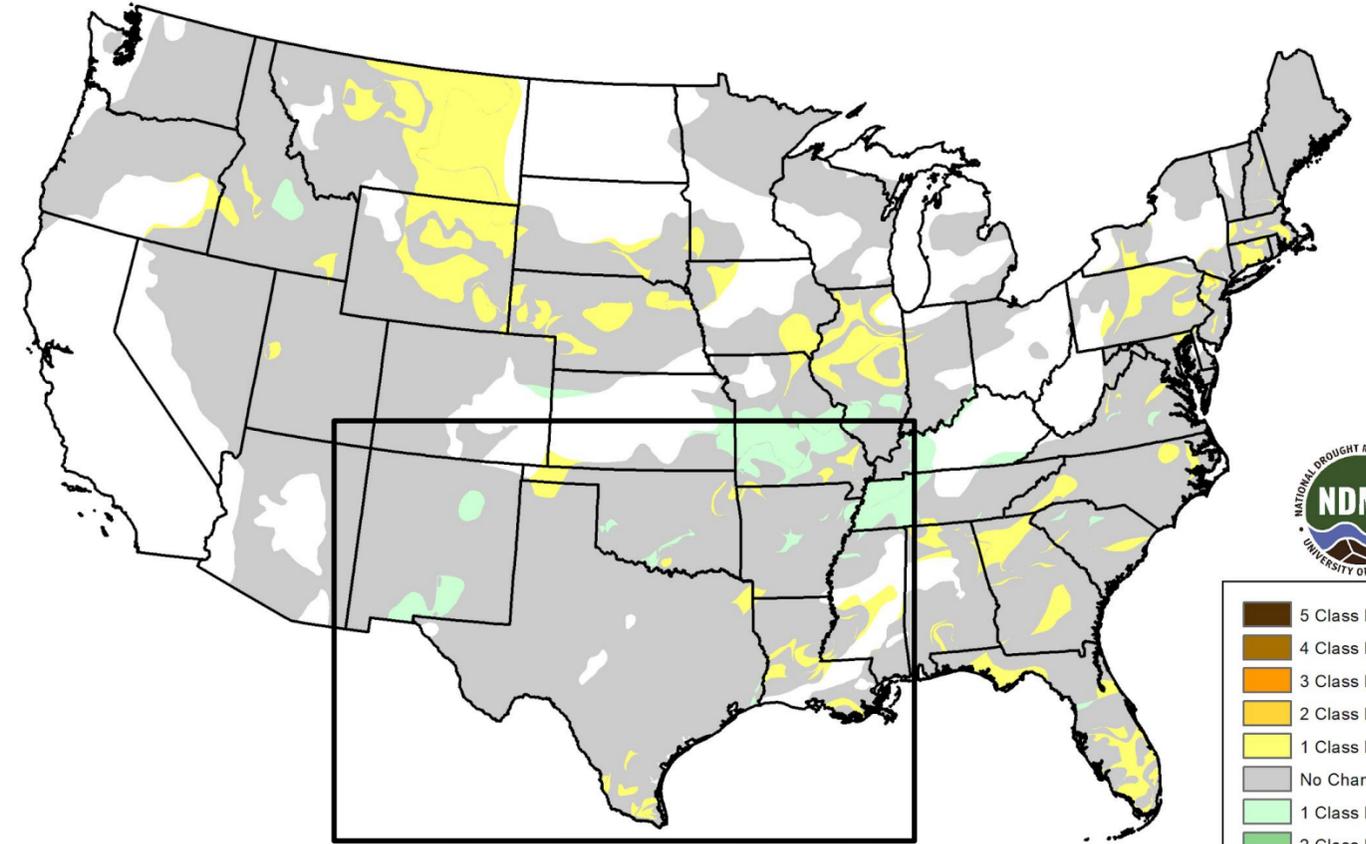
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - CONUS 1 Week



February 17, 2026
compared to
February 10, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



5 Class Degradation
4 Class Degradation
3 Class Degradation
2 Class Degradation
1 Class Degradation
No Change
1 Class Improvement
2 Class Improvement
3 Class Improvement
4 Class Improvement
5 Class Improvement



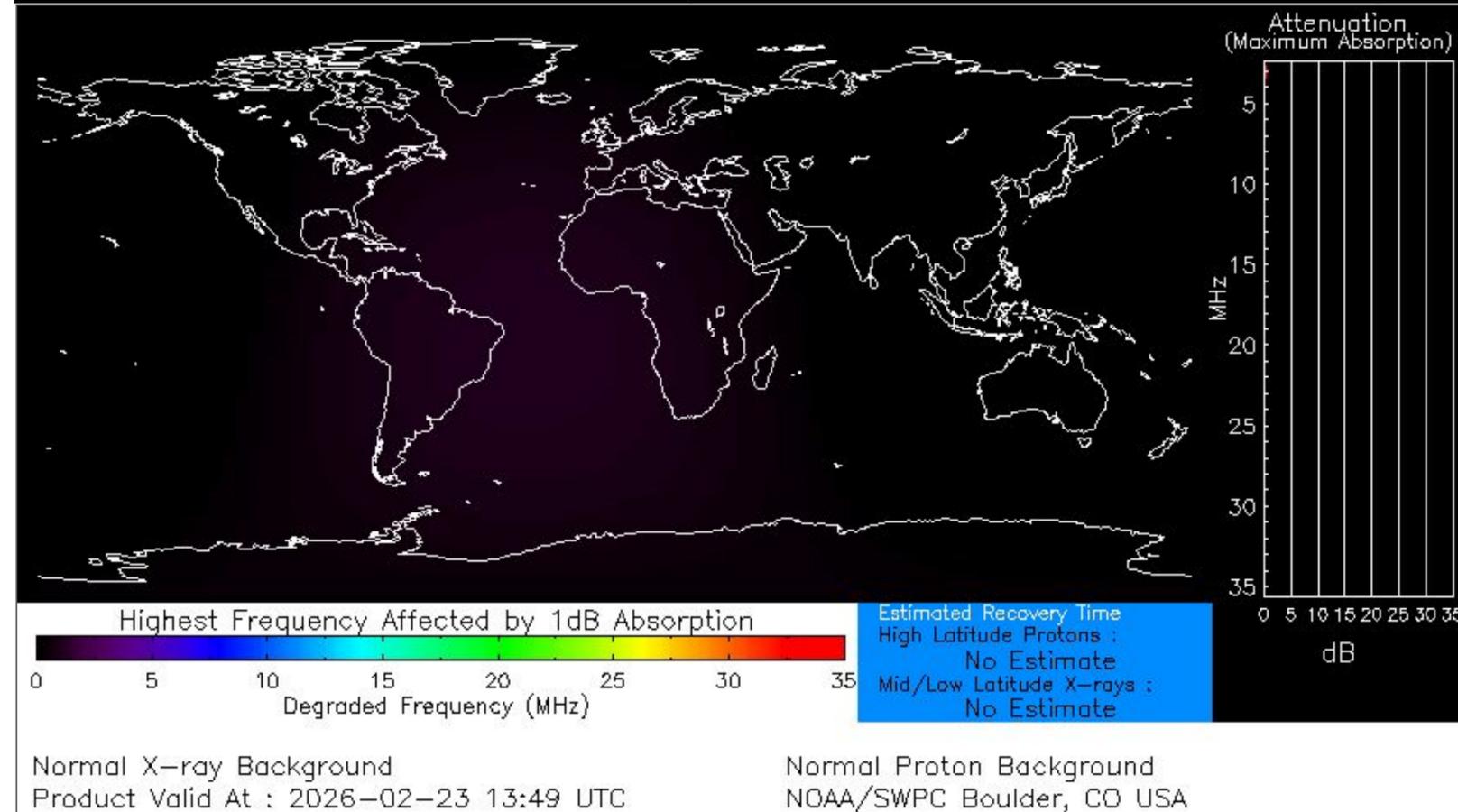
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Southern Region



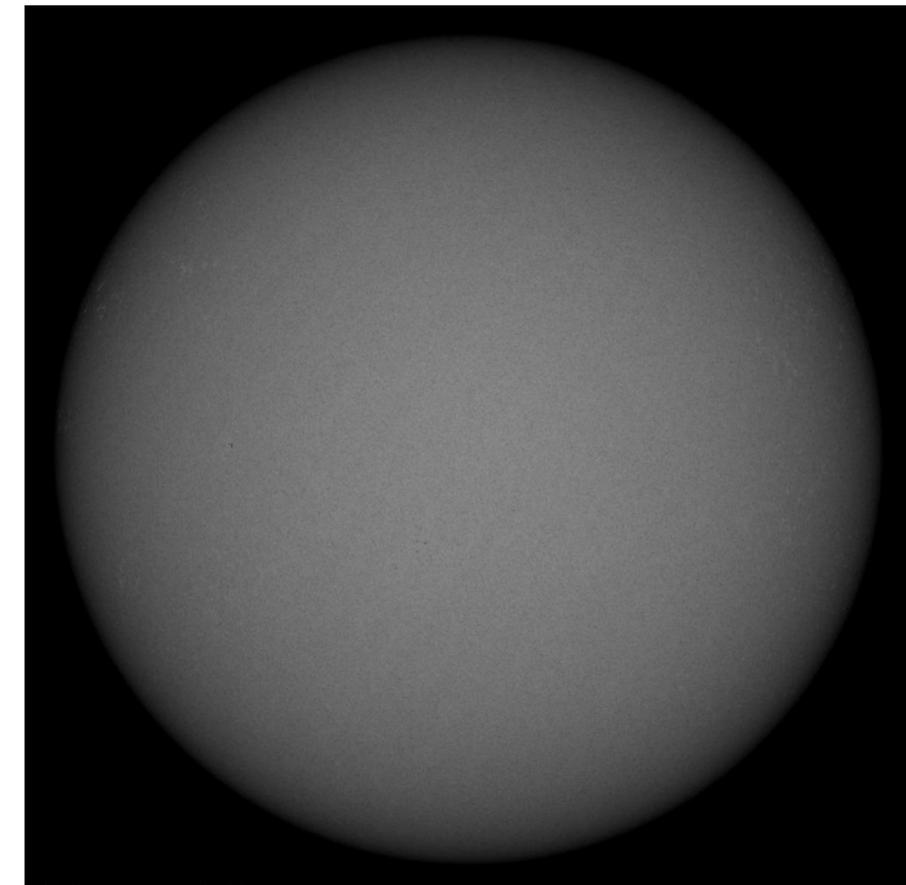
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast

	Monday, Feb 23	Tuesday, Feb 24	Wednesday, Feb 25
Geomagnetic Storms	Minor G1 Storm (Max Kp=5)	Active (Max Kp=4)	Unsettled (Max Kp=3)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	10%	10%	10%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



[Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast](#)



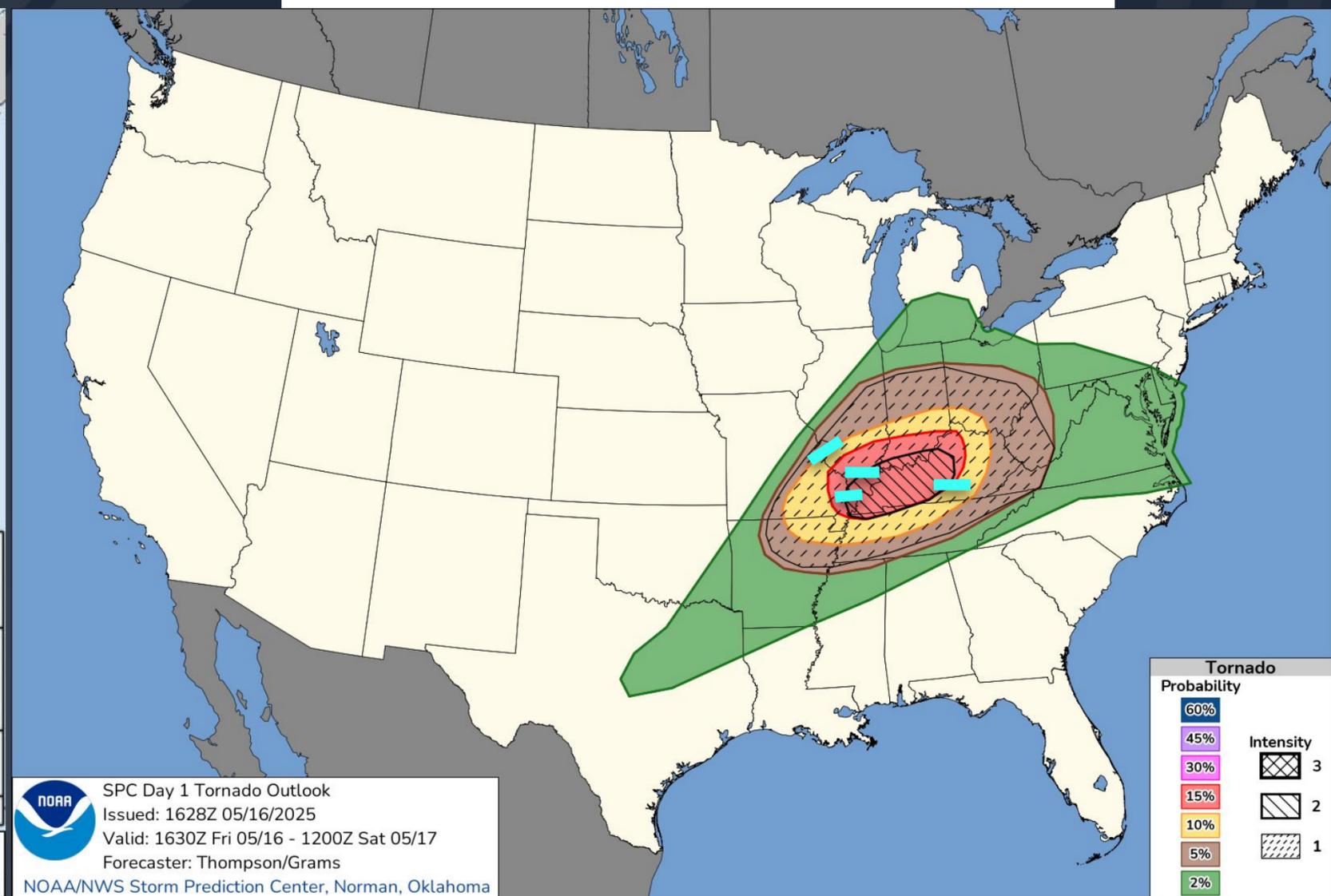
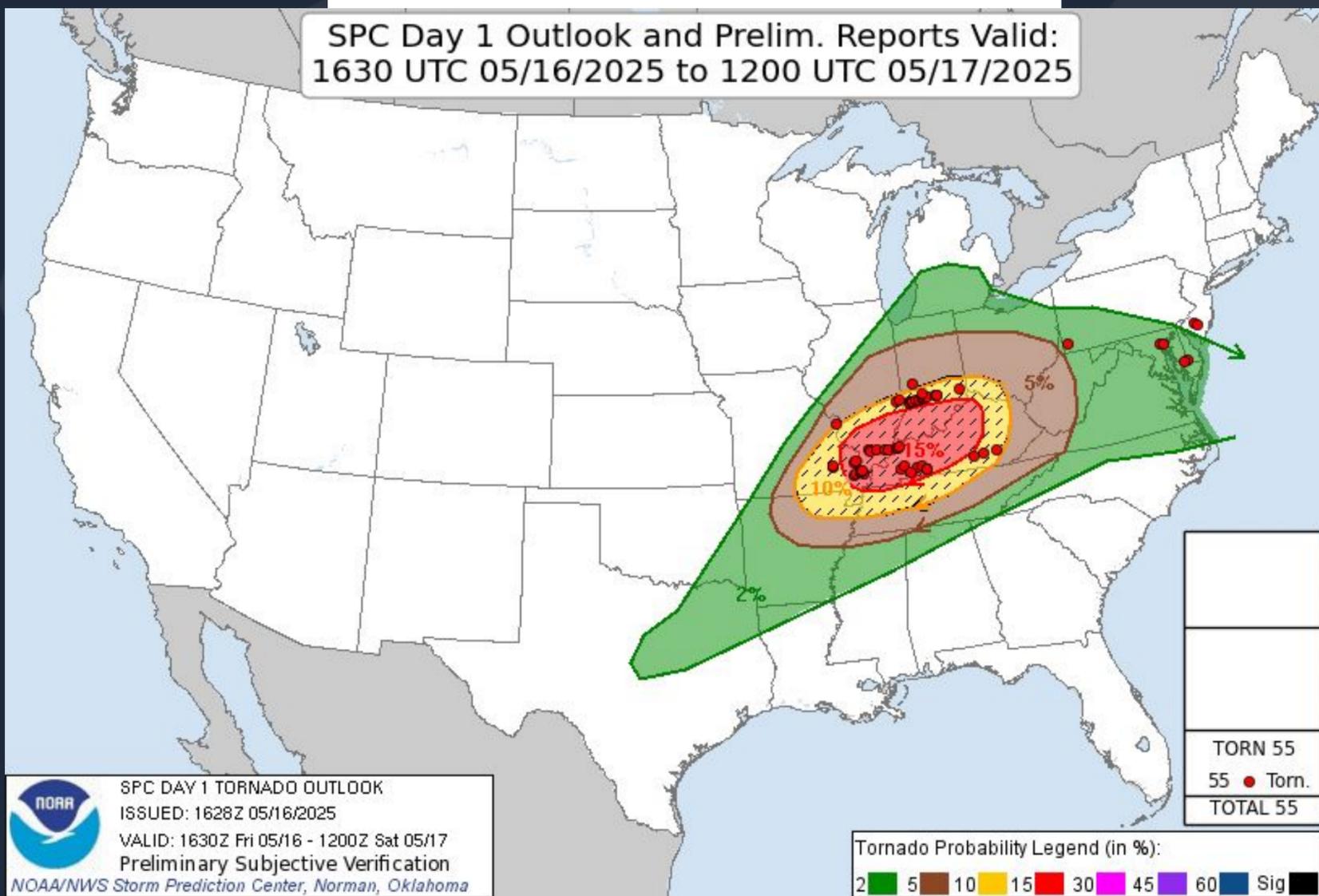
Storm Prediction Center

Convective Outlook Changes in March 2026

Utilizing Conditional Intensity to Improve Severe Weather Impacts Forecasting

Current Operational

New Conditional Intensity



EF3+ tornado paths in cyan

Key Takeaways

Outlook Categories Unchanged

Frequency of categorical outlook areas will be the same as prior years.

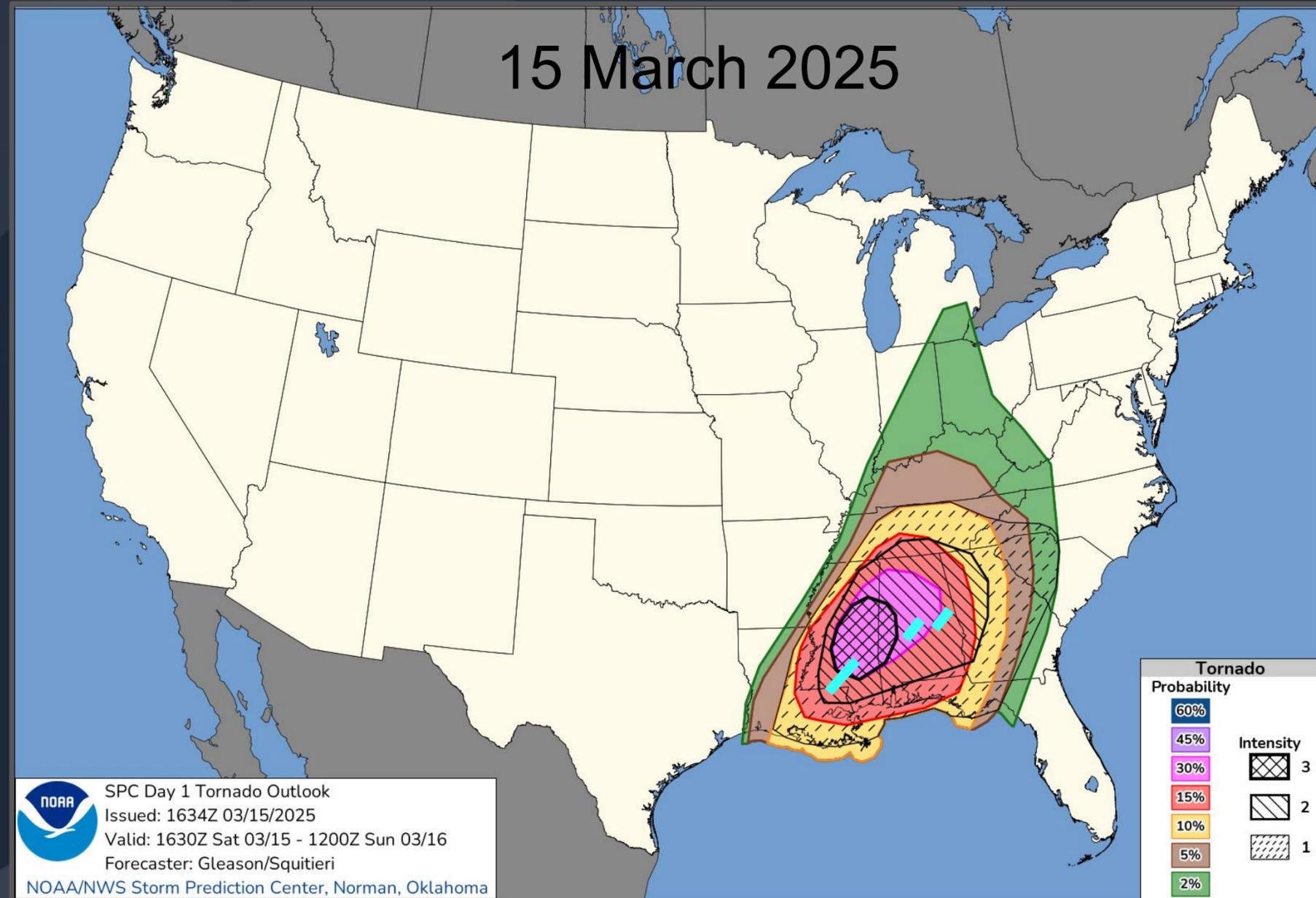
ENH in 2025 will be an ENH in 2026.

Added Intensity Information

First change to hazard intensity forecasts since early 2000s.

3 intensity categories for tornado and wind (2 for hail) to reflect potential for greater hazard intensity and impacts.

Used in Days 1-3 Convective Outlooks.



EF3+ tornado paths in cyan

Weather "Threat" Matrix for FEMA Region VI

Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	<p style="text-align: center;">Little to None</p> <p>Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p style="text-align: center;">Minor</p> <p>Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p style="text-align: center;">Moderate</p> <p>Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p style="text-align: center;">Major</p> <p>Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p style="text-align: center;">Extreme</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms

Criteria for the color codes in this briefing is to the left, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov



National Weather Service

Southern Region Headquarters

Regional Operations Center

Fort Worth, TX



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