



FEMA



Prepared by
Mark Wiley

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Tuesday, February 24, 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 critical (levels 1-2 of 3) conditions today over E NM, TX/OK Panhandles, OK, W/NW TX, NW AR and over E NM, C-W TX on Wednesday.**
- **Elevated (level 1 of 3) conditions Thursday over SW 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

| | Tuesday, Feb 24 | Wednesday, Feb 25 | Thursday, Feb 26 | Friday, Feb 27 | Saturday, Feb 28 | Sunday, Mar 1 | Monday, Mar 2 |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Severe Storms | | | | | | | |
| Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding | | | | | | | |
| Winter Weather | | | | | | | |
| Fire Weather | E NM, TX Panhandle, OK, W/NW TX, NW AR | E NM, C-W TX | SW TX | | | | |
| River Flooding | AR | AR | | | | | |

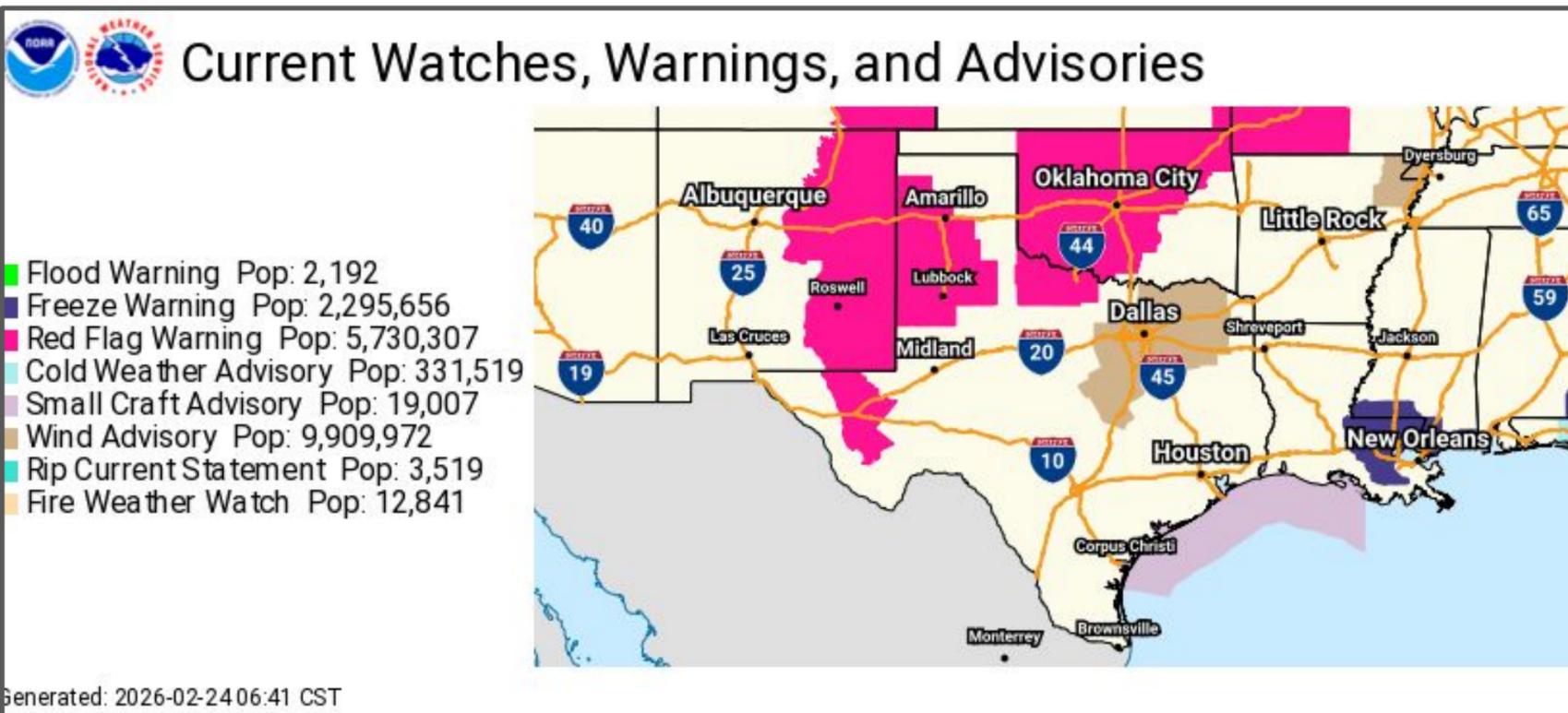
Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.

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 |
|-------------|----------------|-------|----------|-------|---------|



Current Radar/Hazards

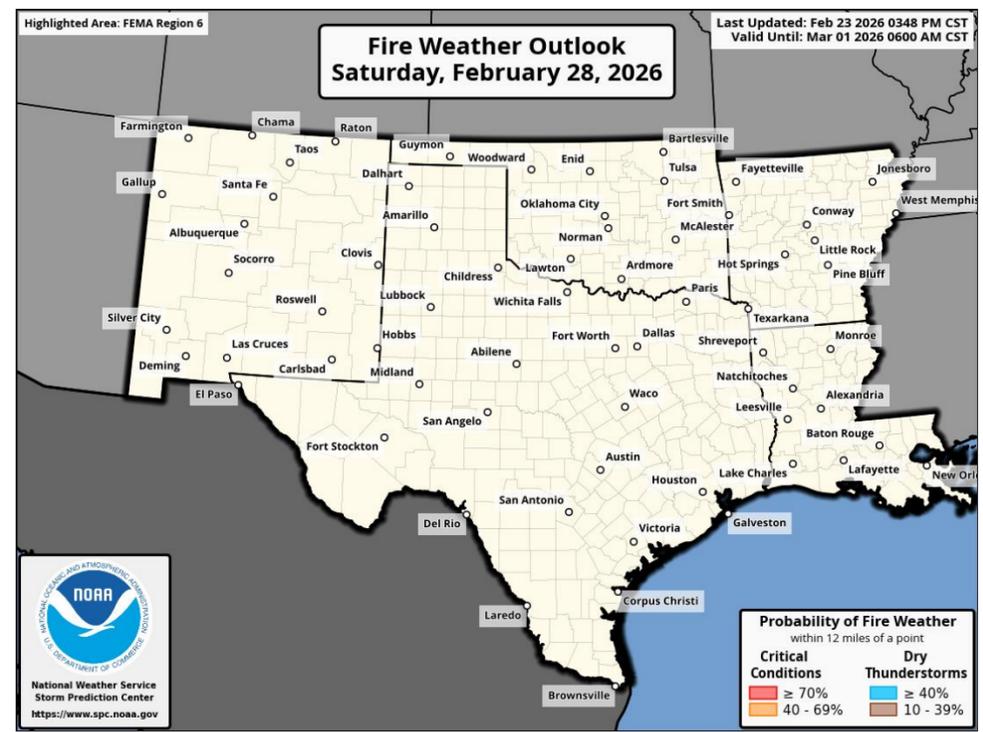
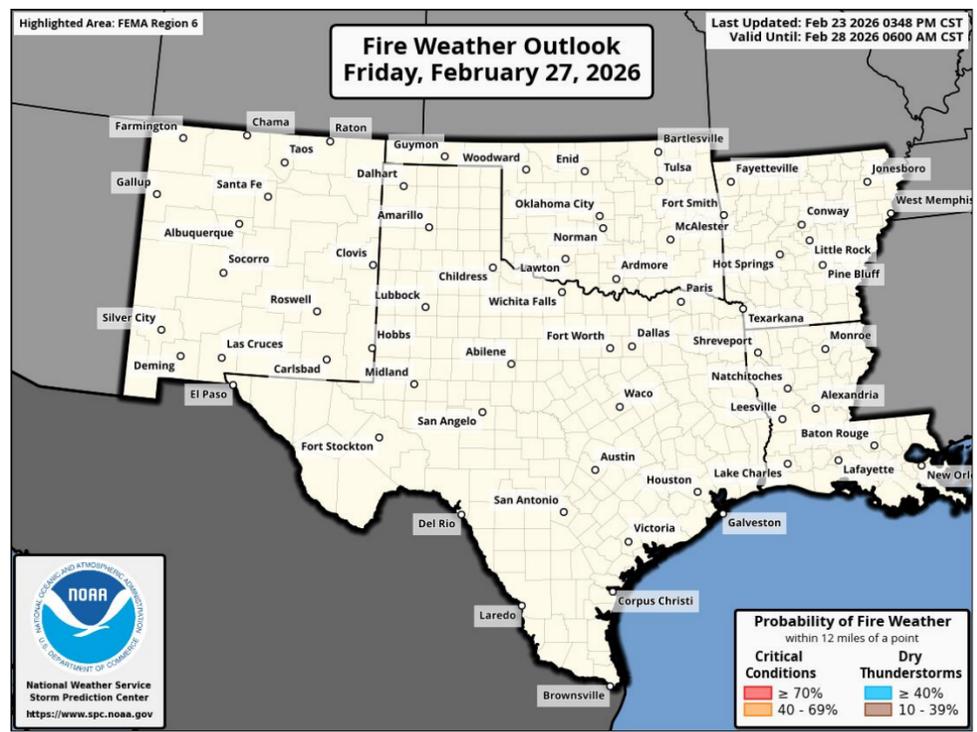
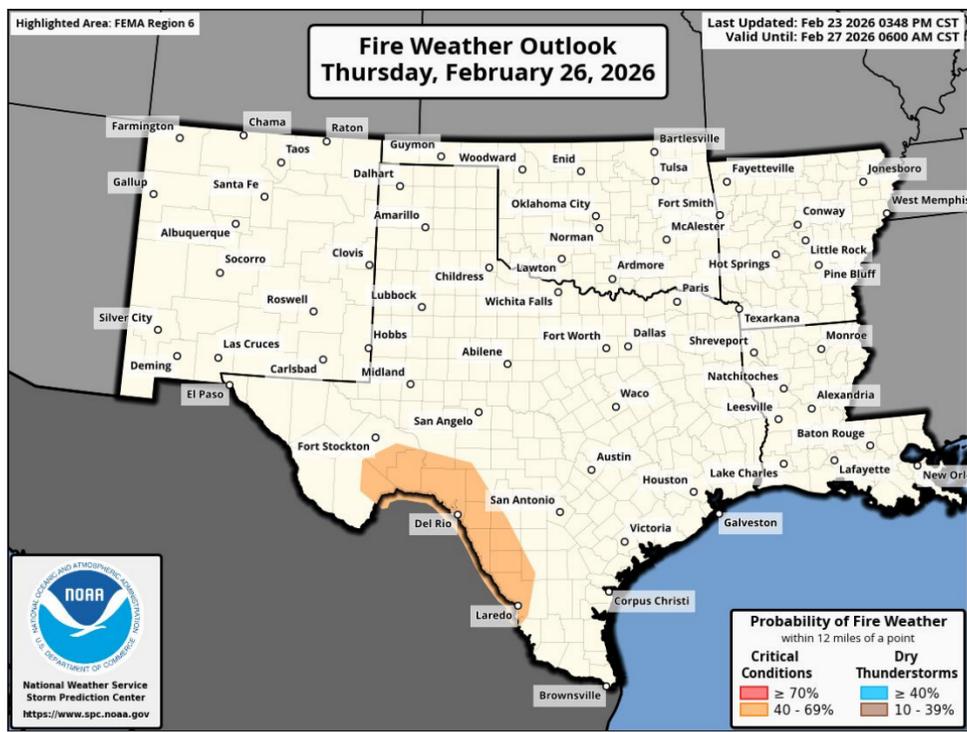
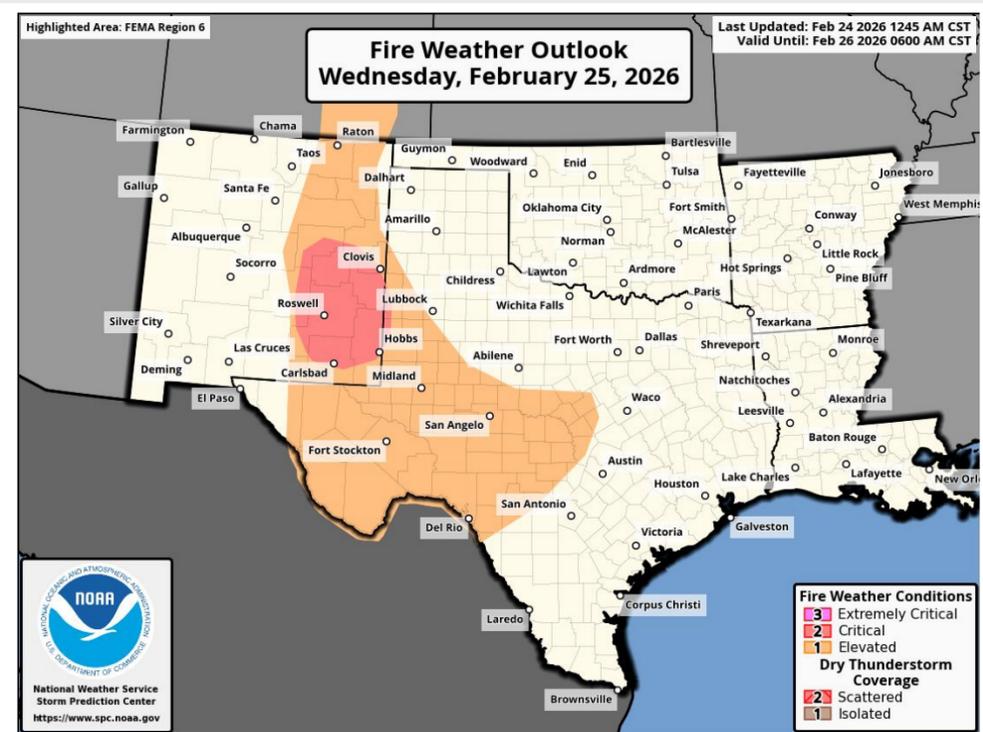
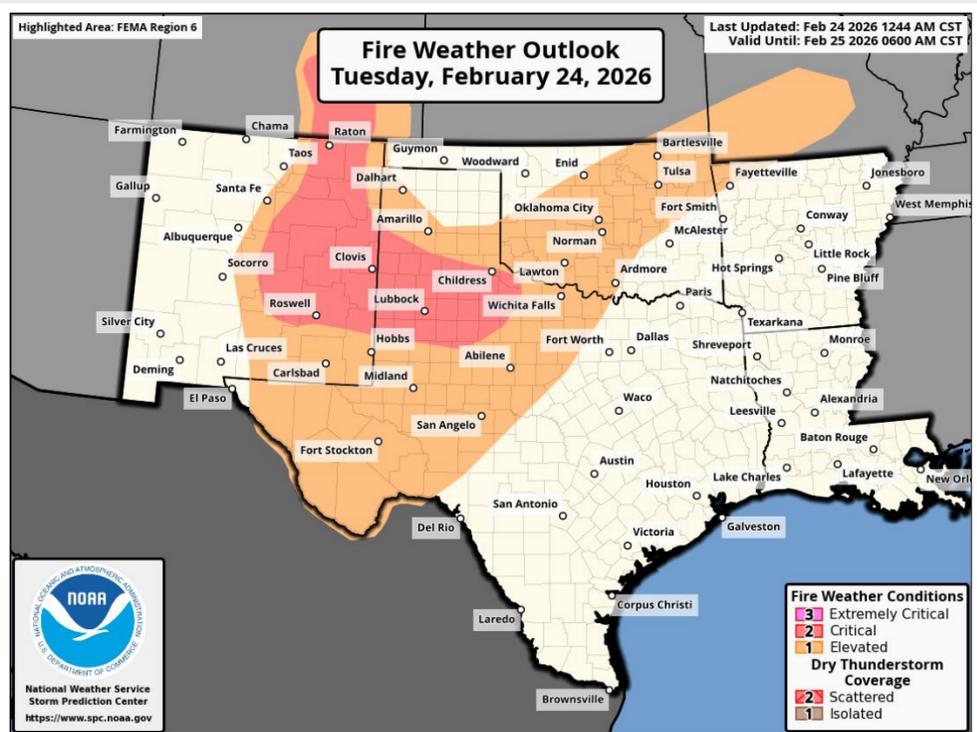
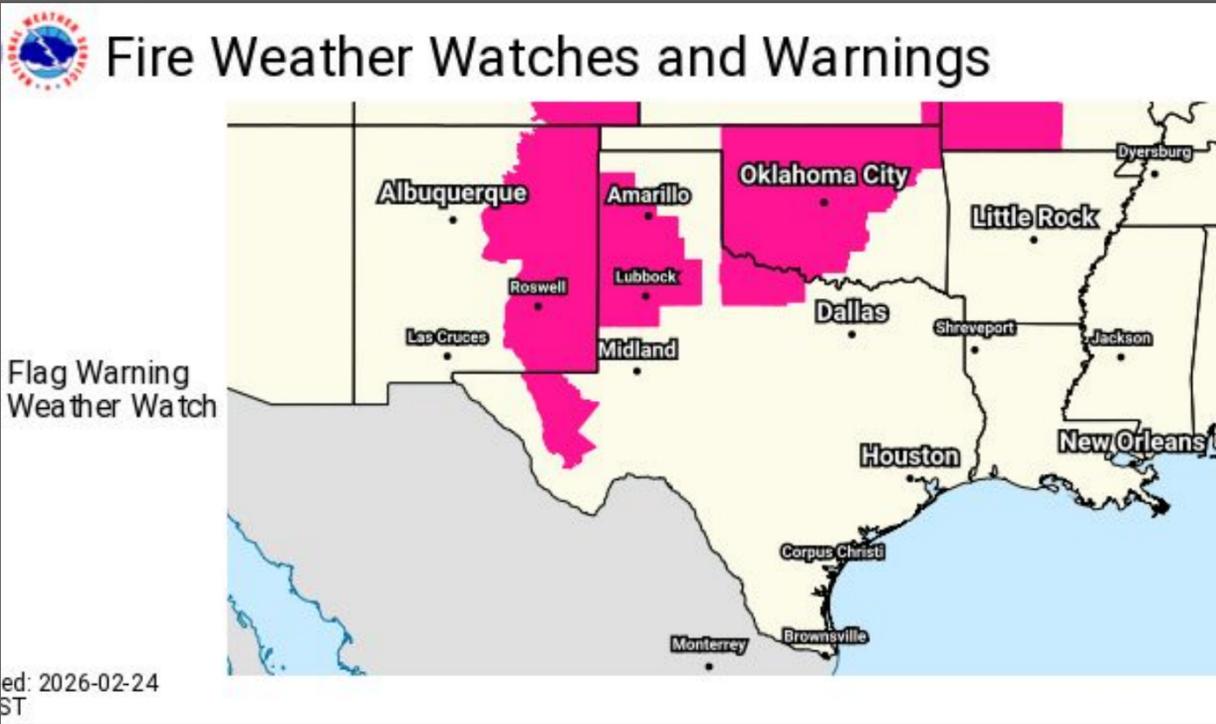


**Red Flag Warnings through 8pm.
Wind advisory NTX and NE AR through
this evening for gusts to 35-40 mph.**





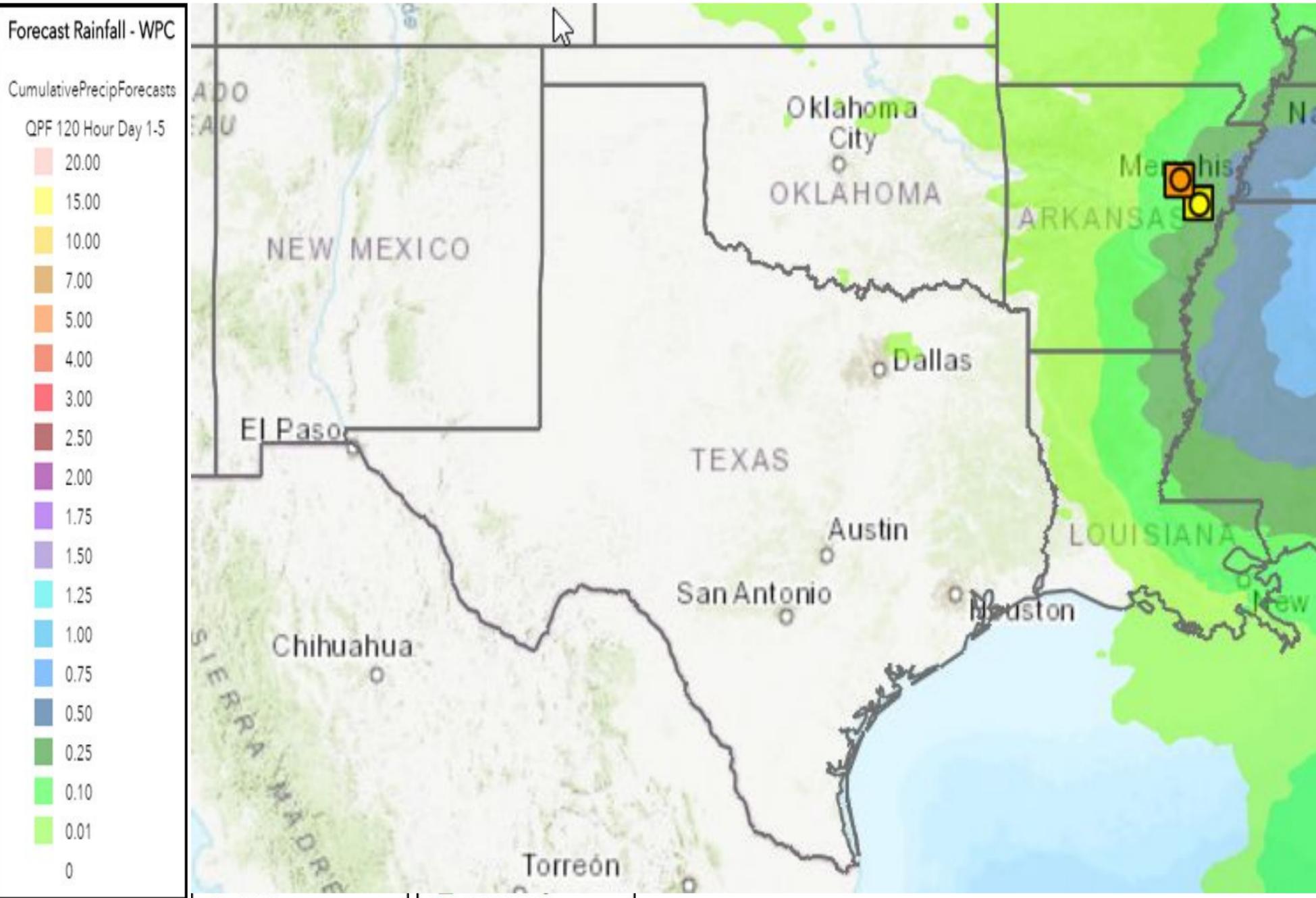
Fire Weather Outlooks





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

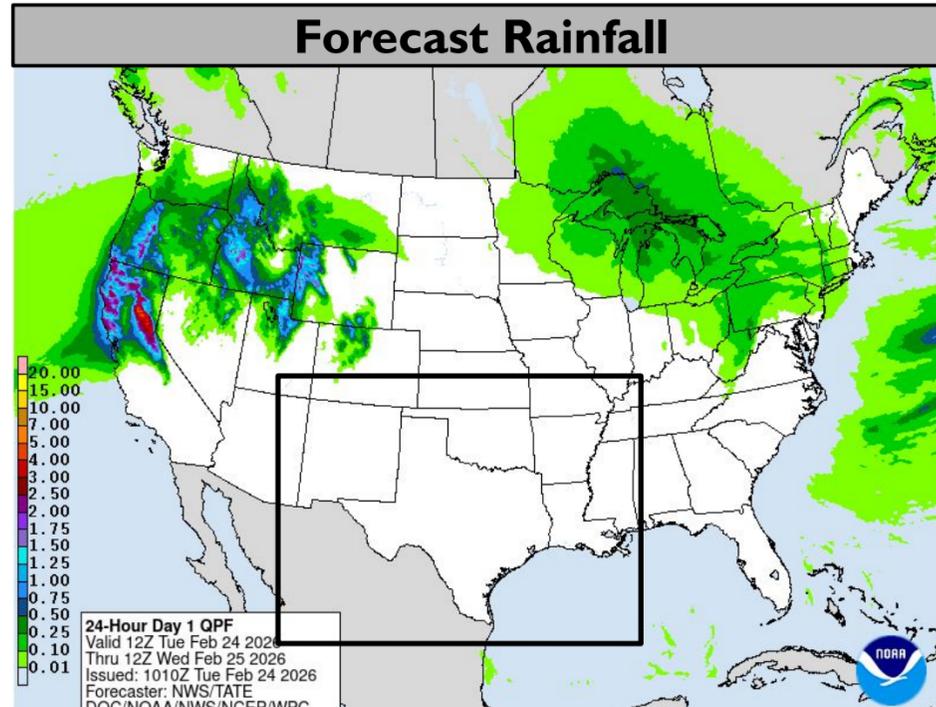
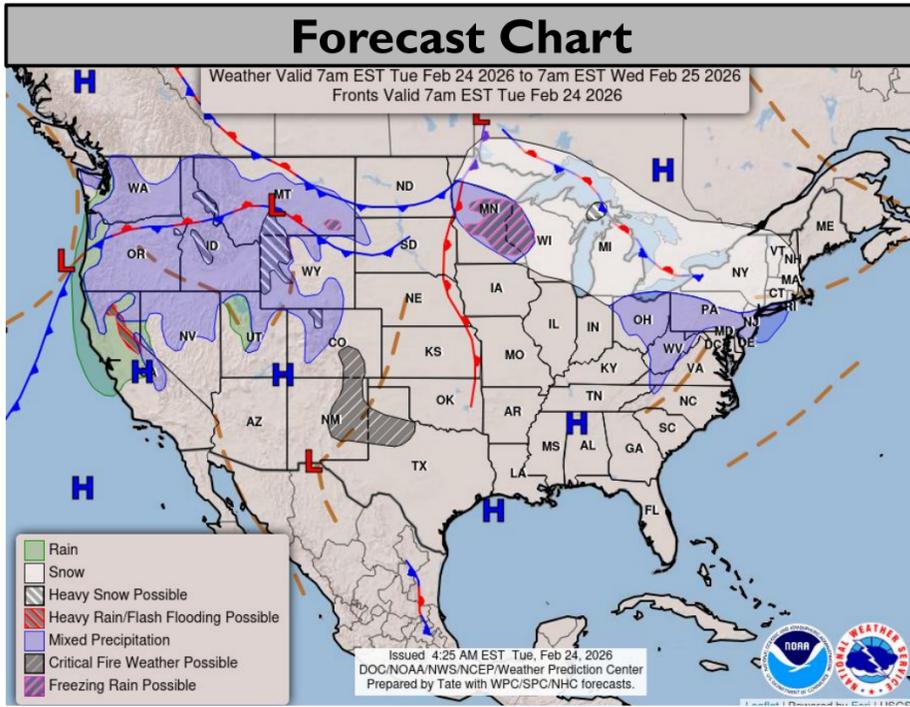


Cache River at Patterson in NE AR is expected remain above minor flood stage through Wednesday evening. Secondary roads and pastures flooded.

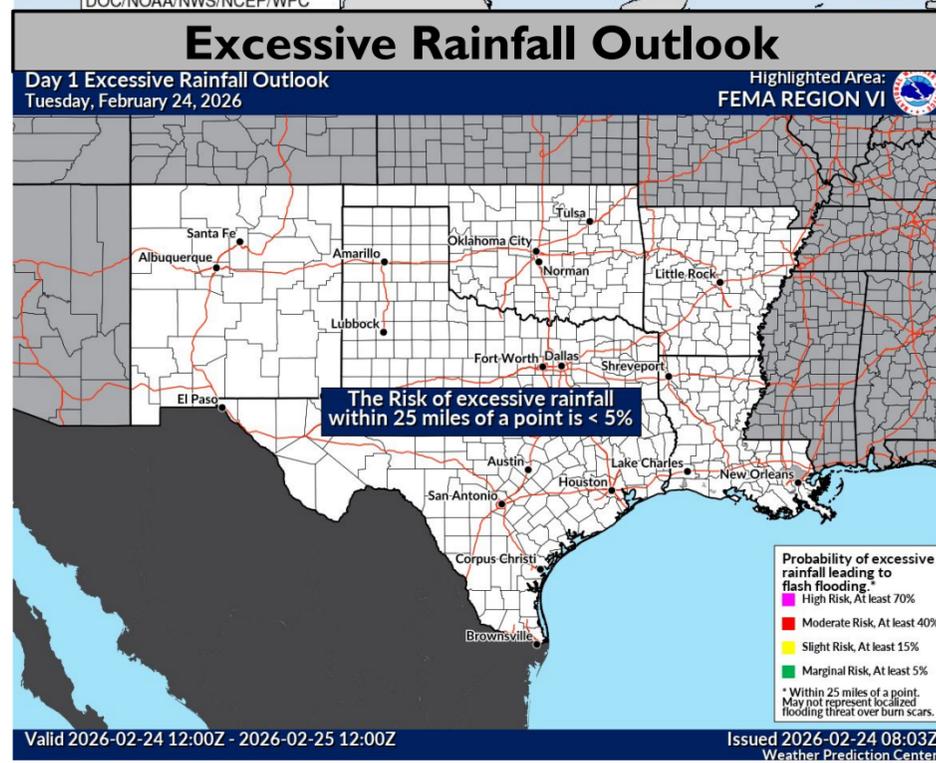
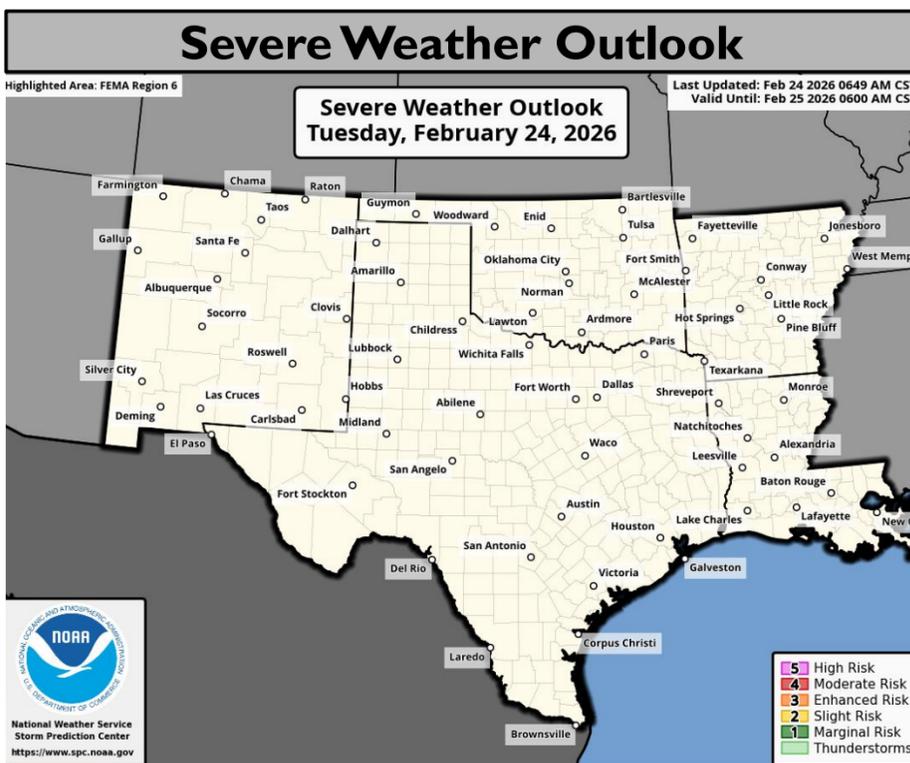
Note: Numerical levels (e.g. level 1 of 4) will not be assigned to riverine flooding due to the varying levels of impacts across flood categories.



Today's Weather

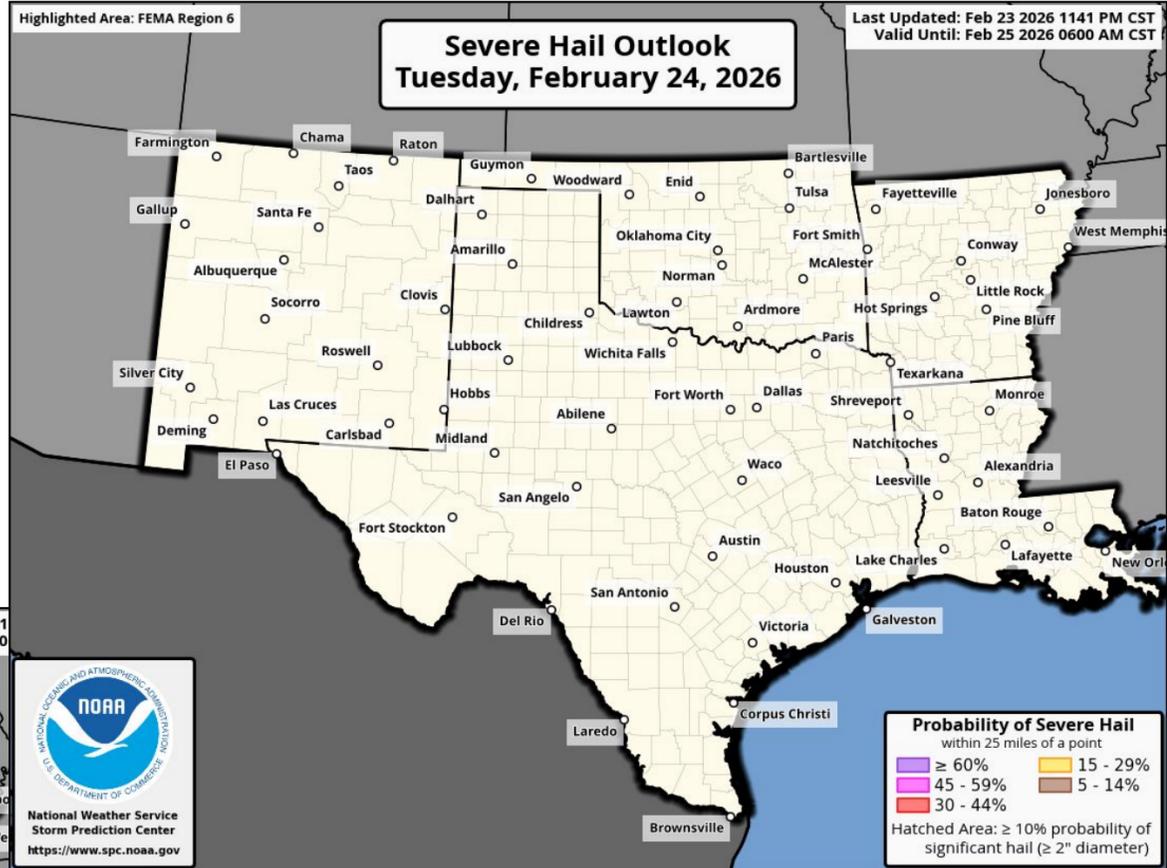
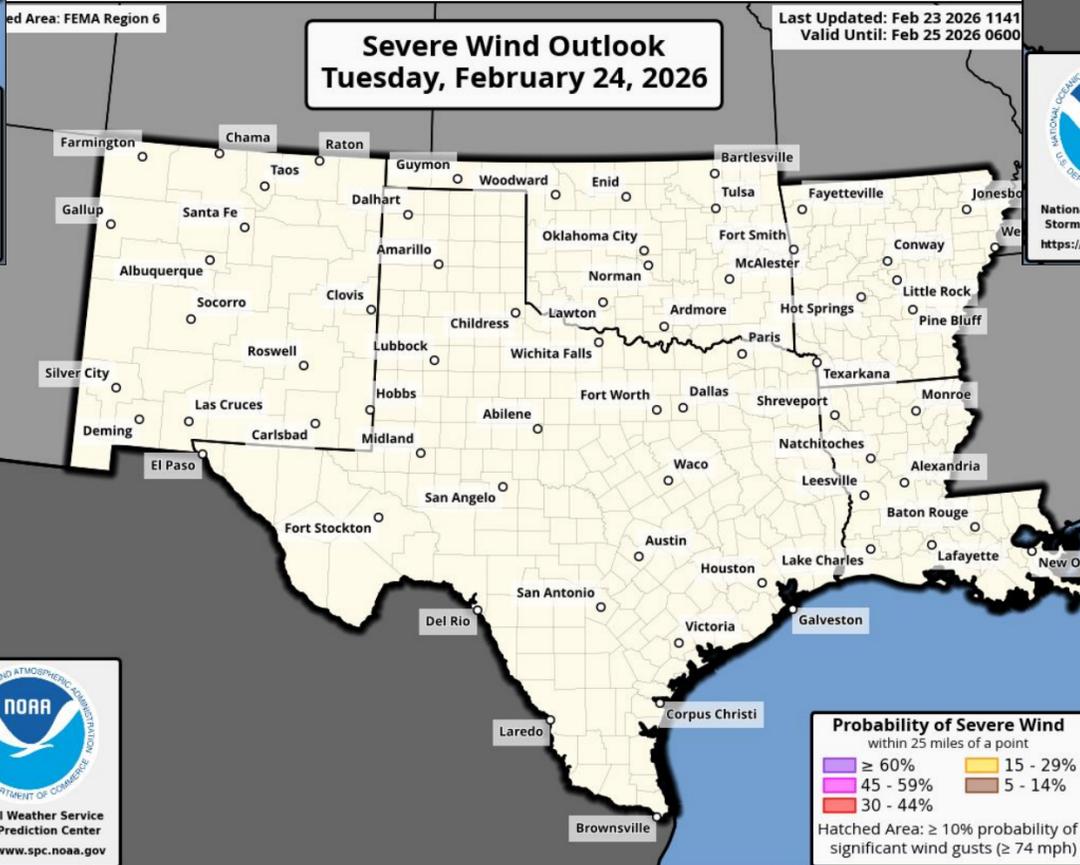
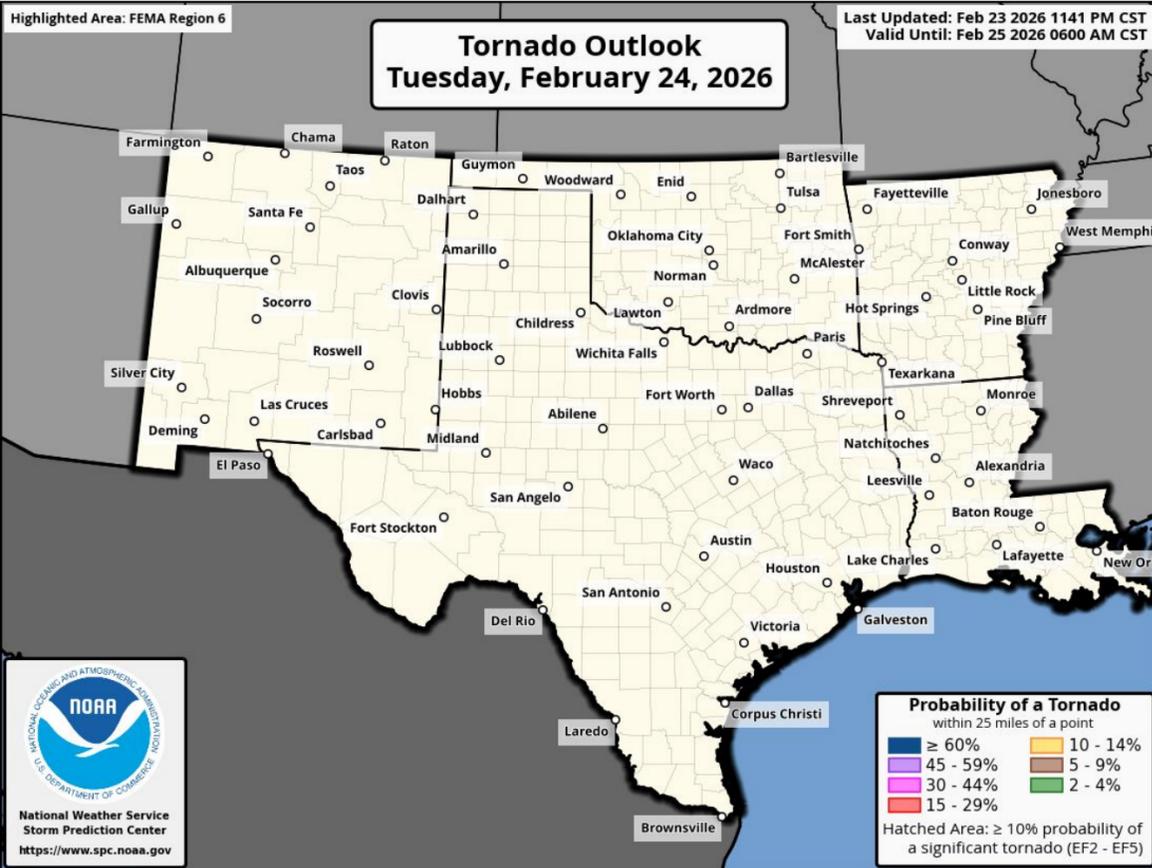


Elevated to critical (levels 1-2 of 3) fire weather conditions in E NM, TX Panhandle, OK, W/NW TX, NW AR.



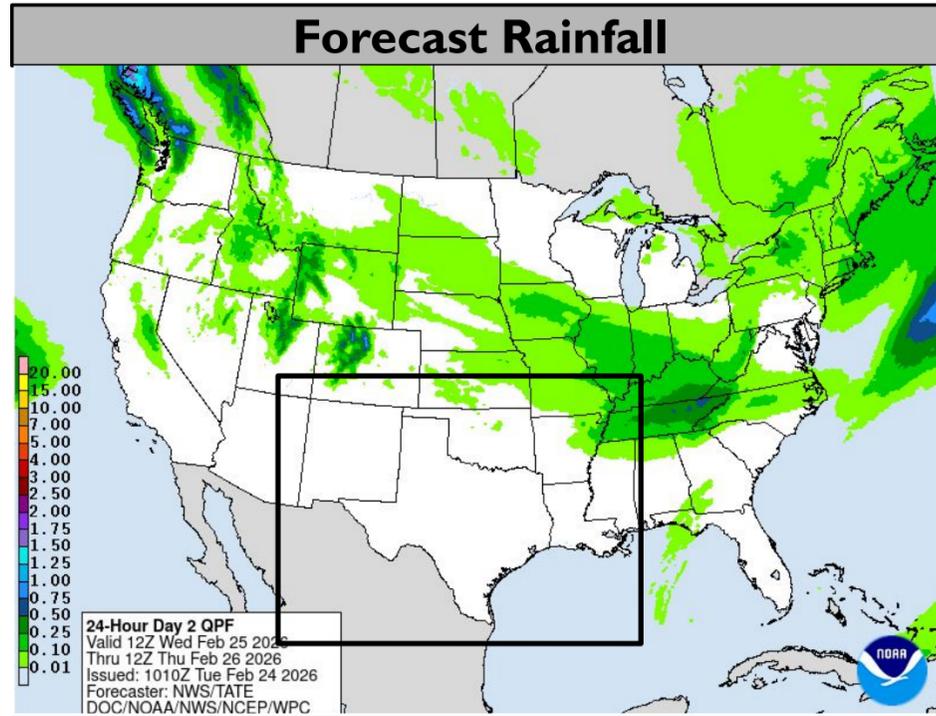
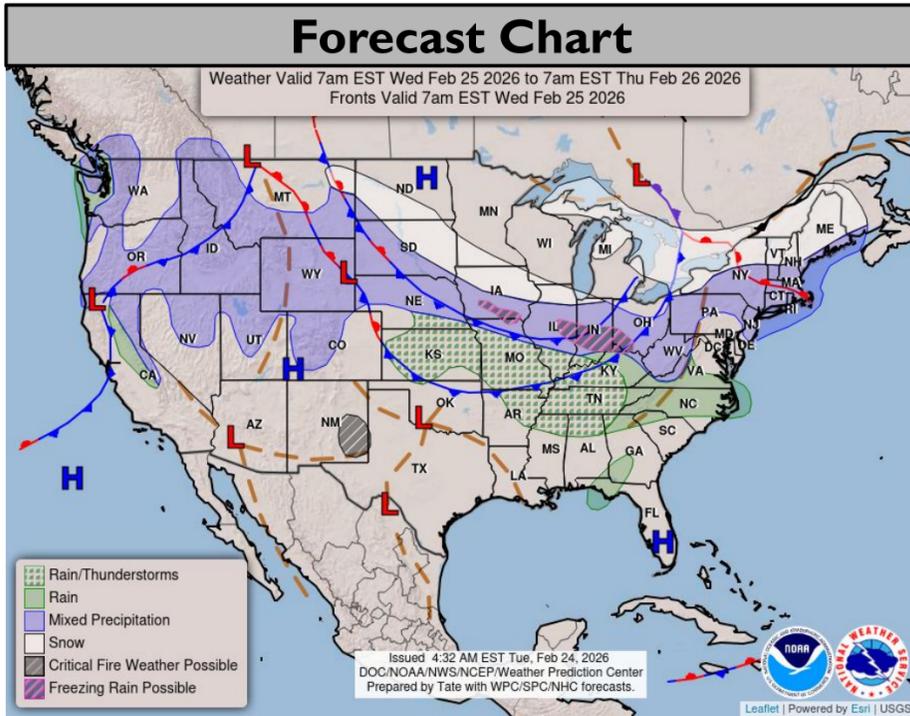


Today's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities

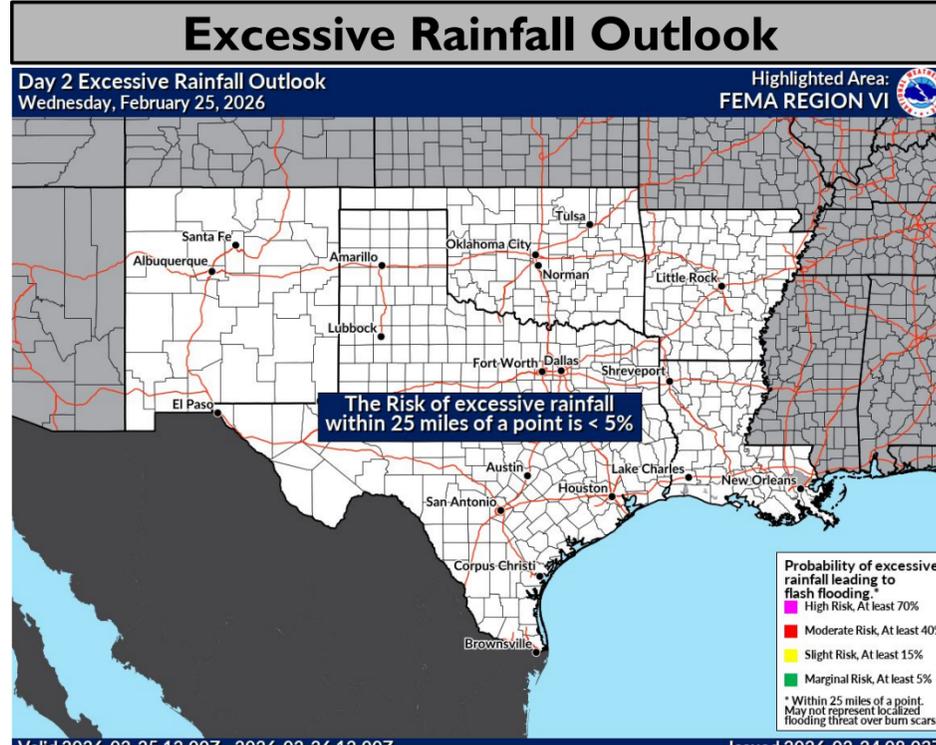
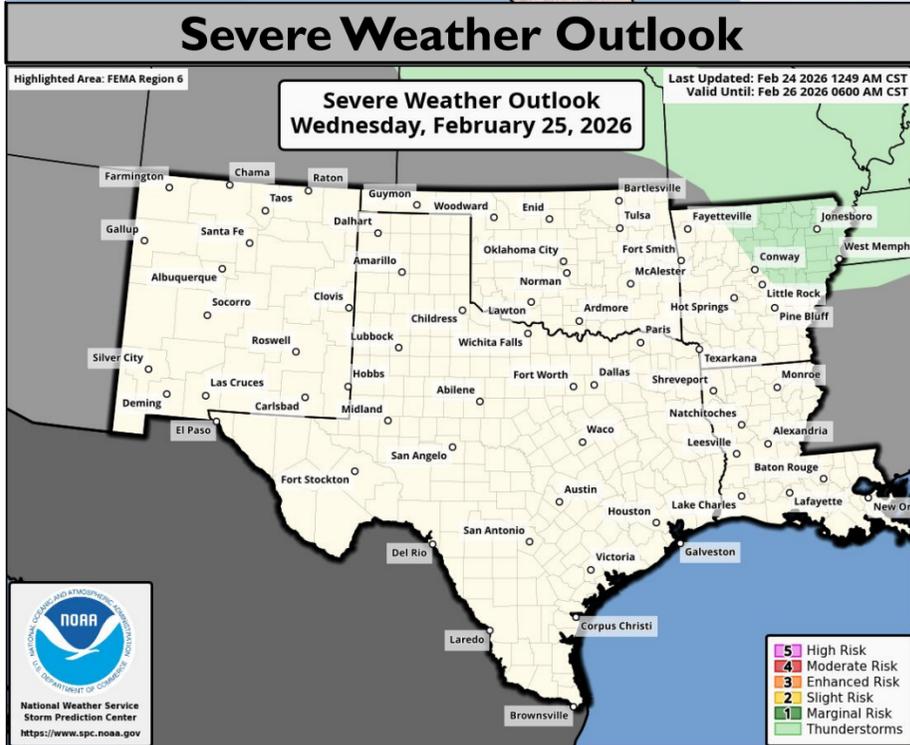




Tomorrow's Weather

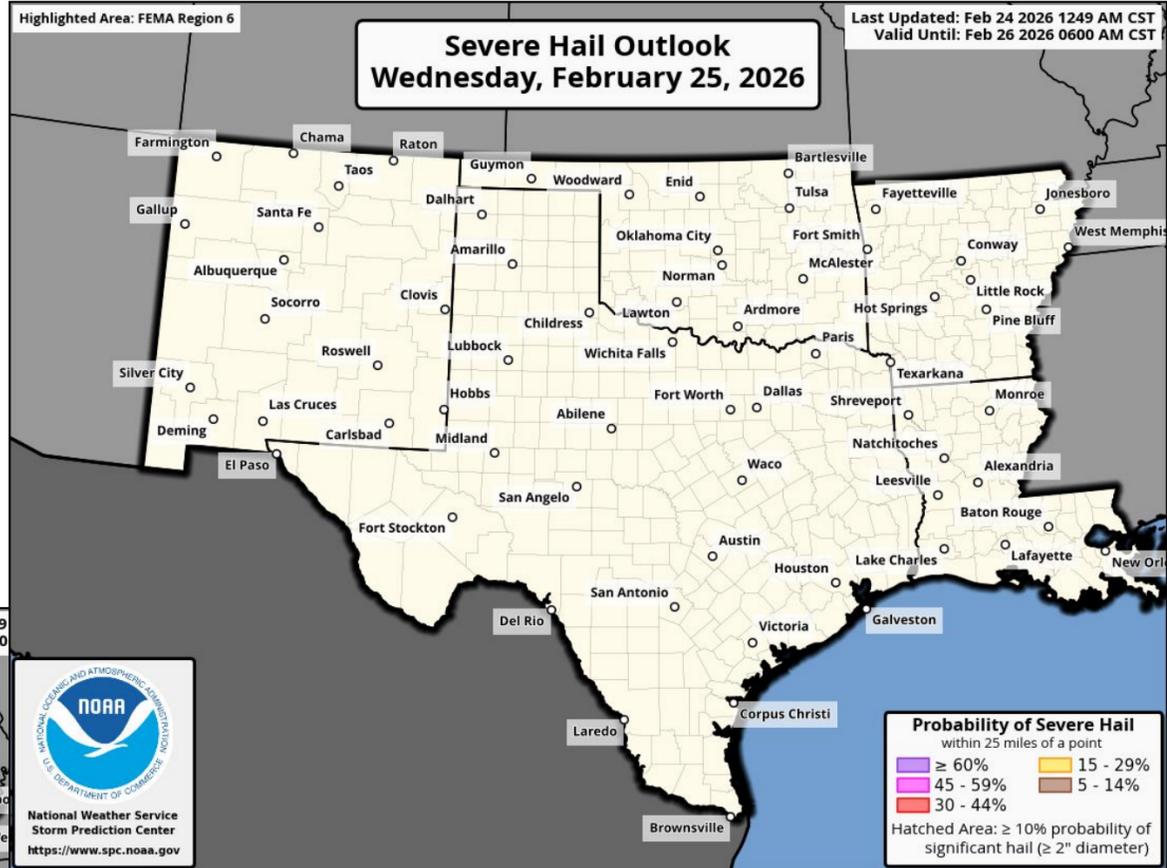
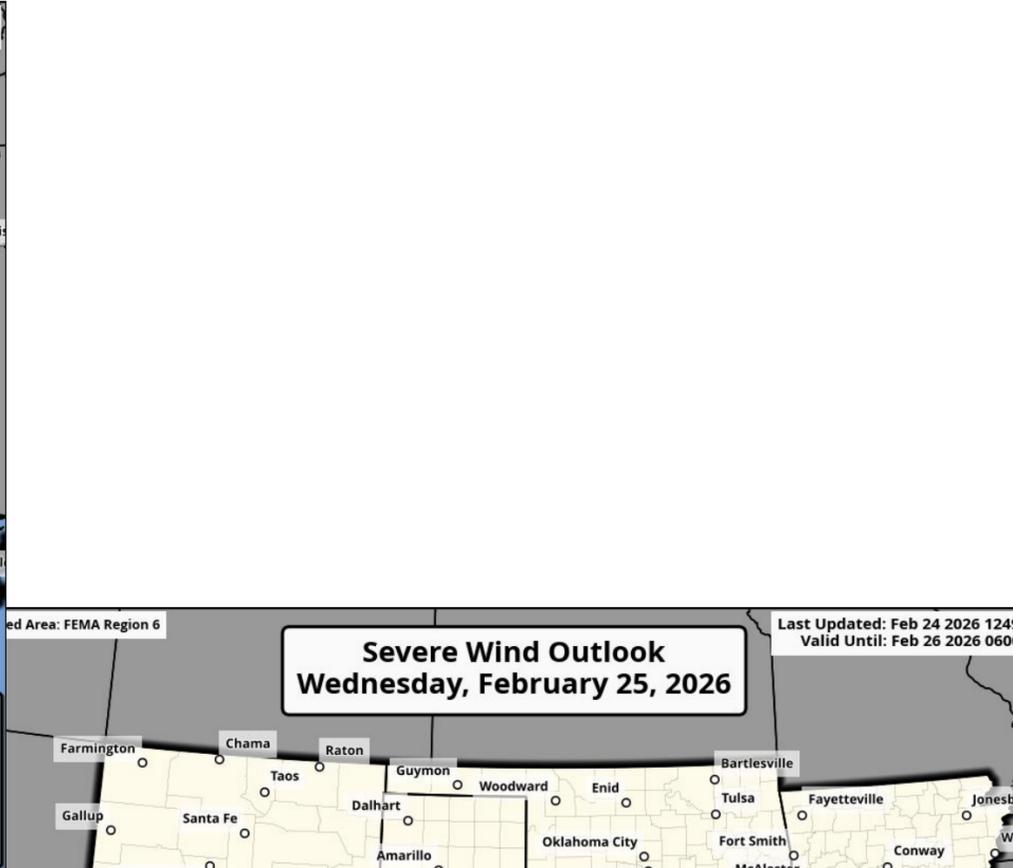
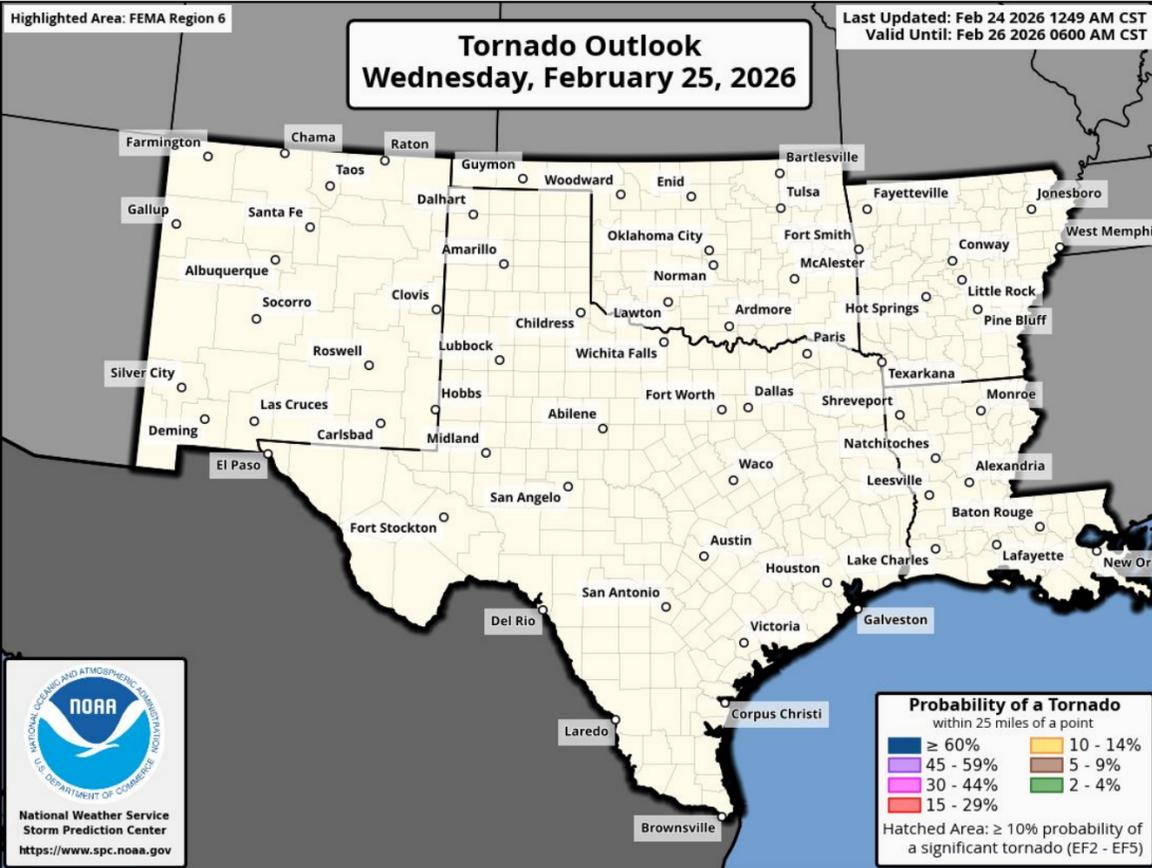


Elevated to critical (levels 1-2 of 3) fire weather conditions in E NM, C-WTX.





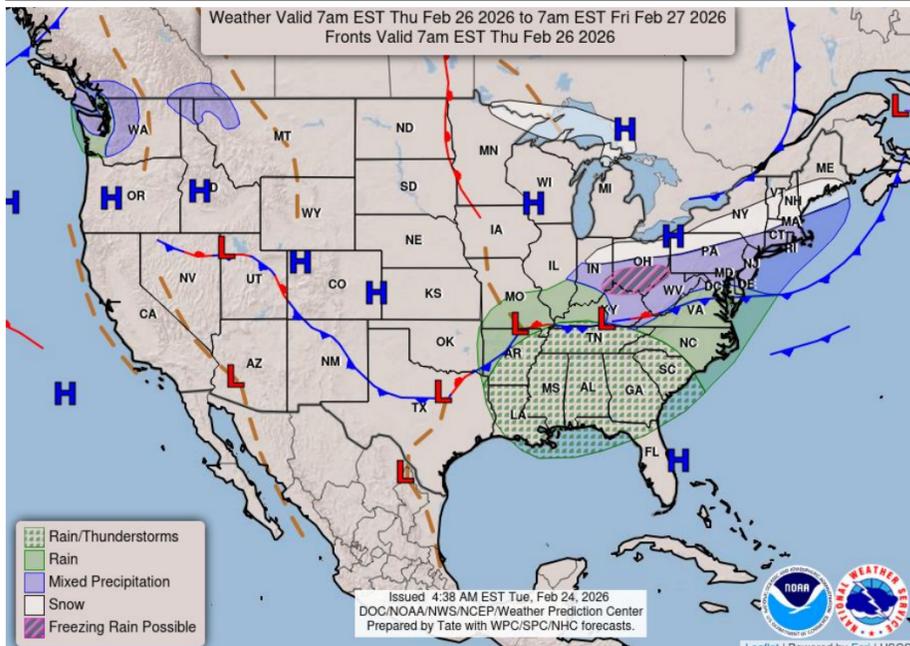
Tomorrow's Tornado & Severe Wind / Hail Probabilities



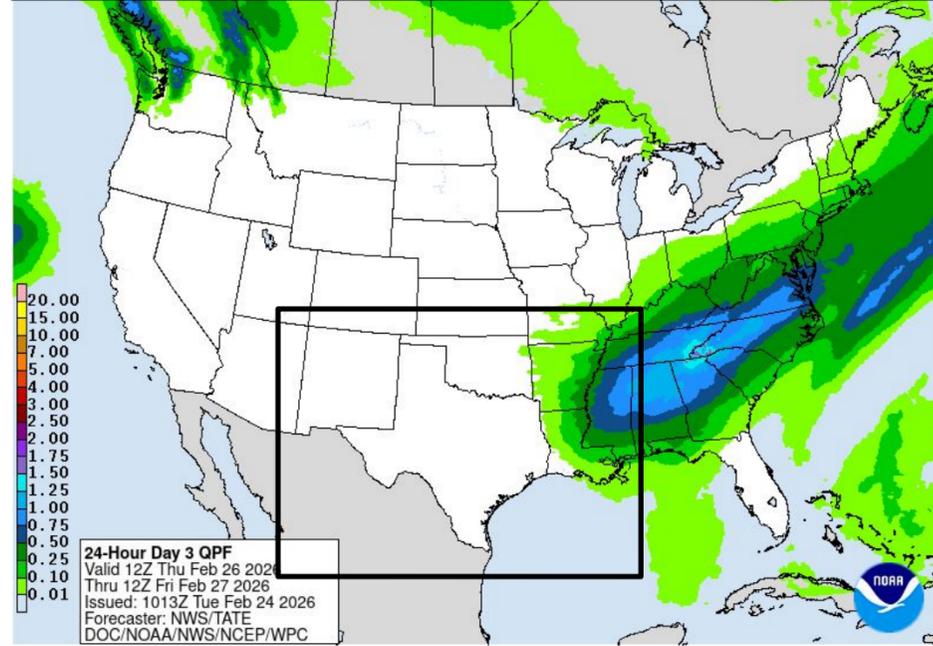


Thursday's Weather

Forecast Chart

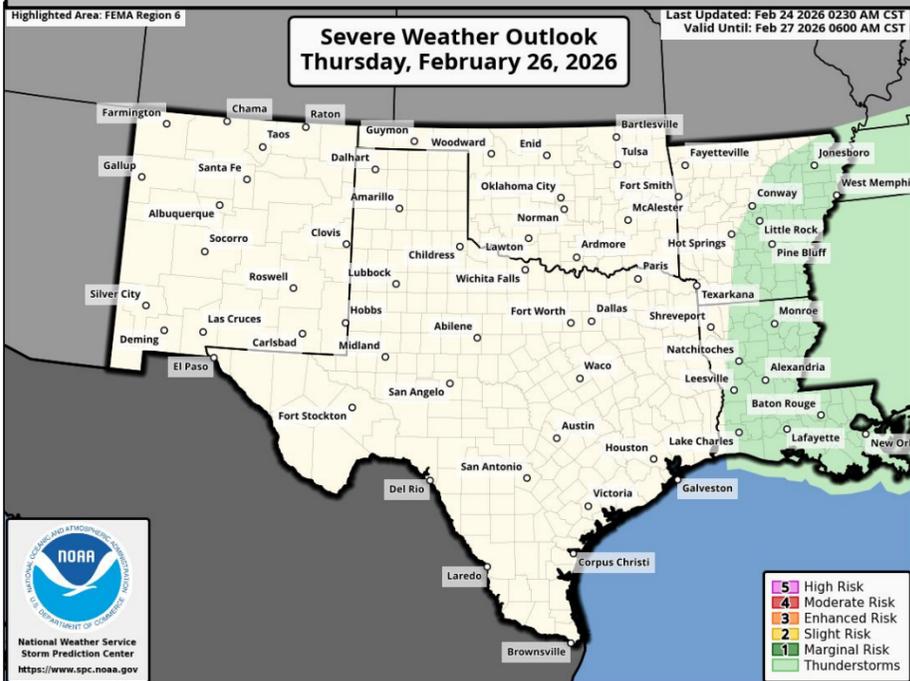


Forecast Rainfall

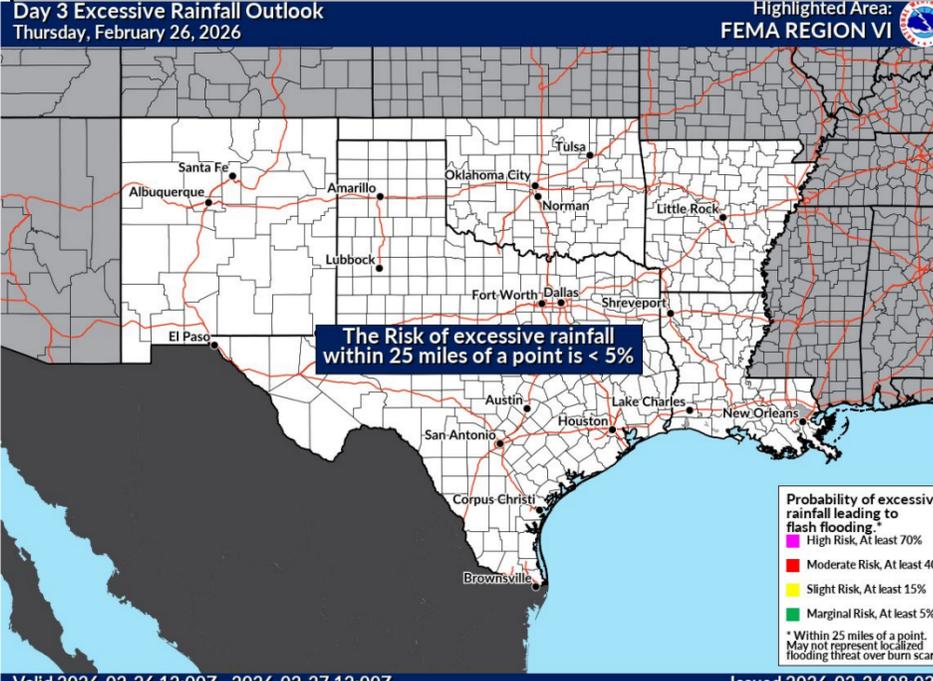


Elevated (levels 1 of 3) fire weather conditions in SW TX.

Severe Weather Outlook



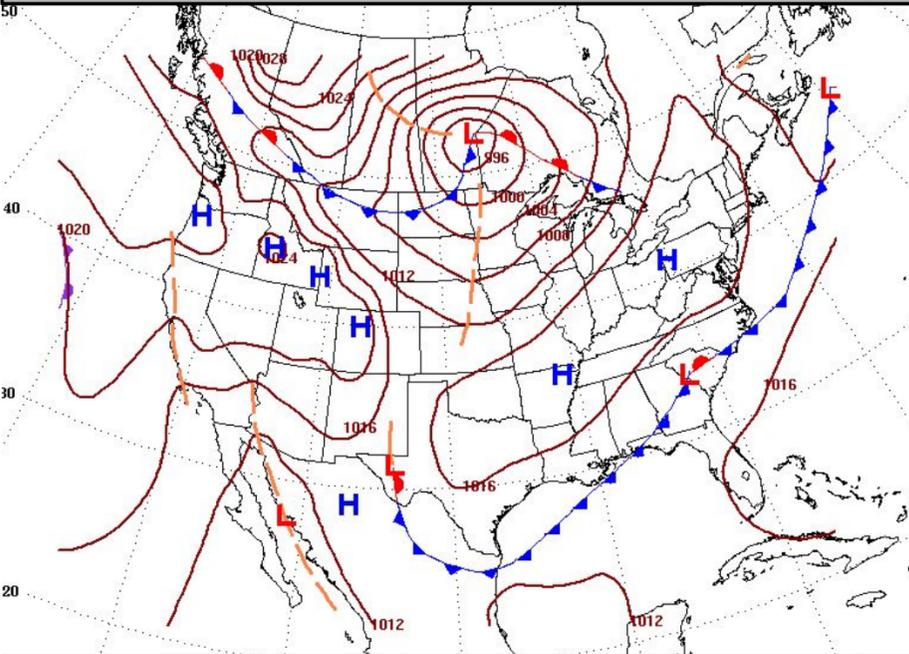
Excessive Rainfall Outlook



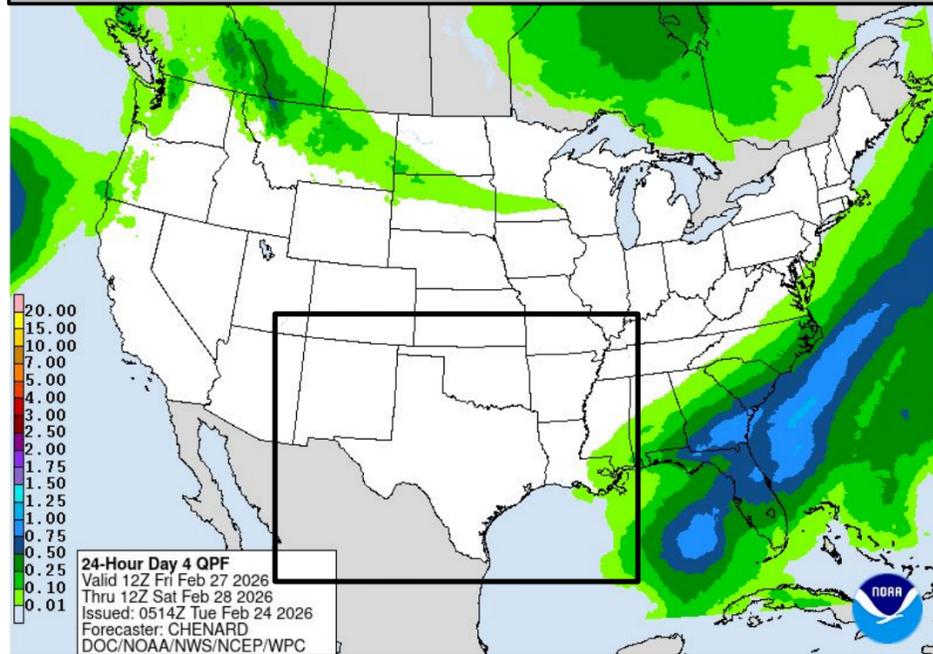


Friday's Weather

Forecast Chart

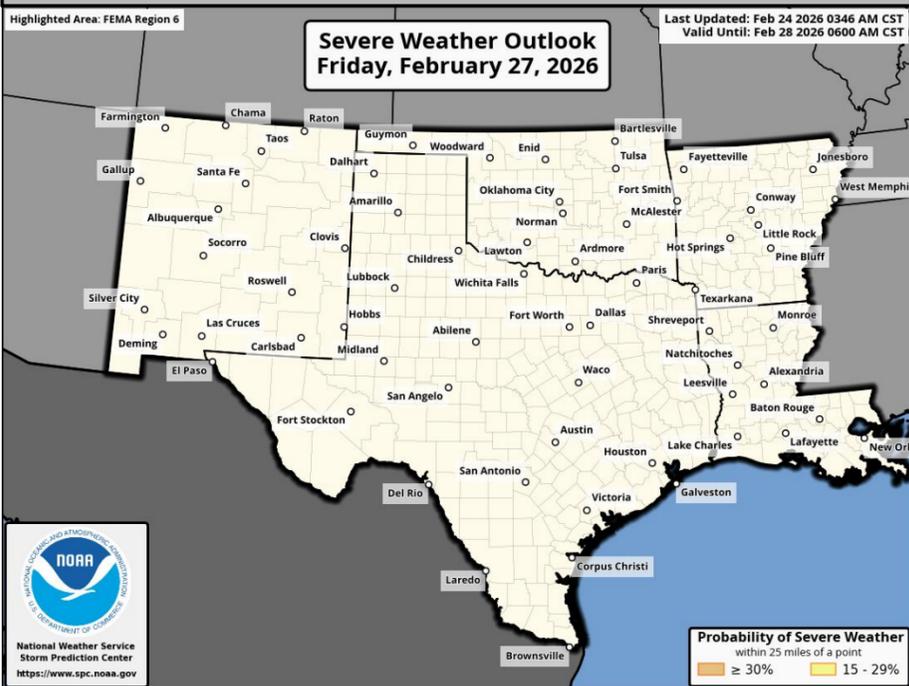


Forecast Rainfall

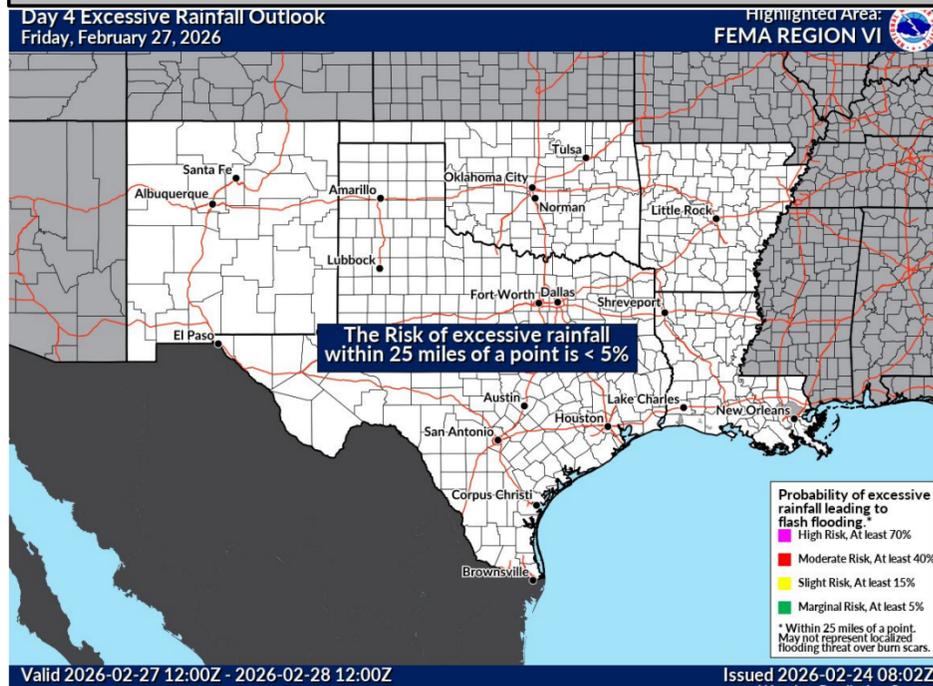


No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook



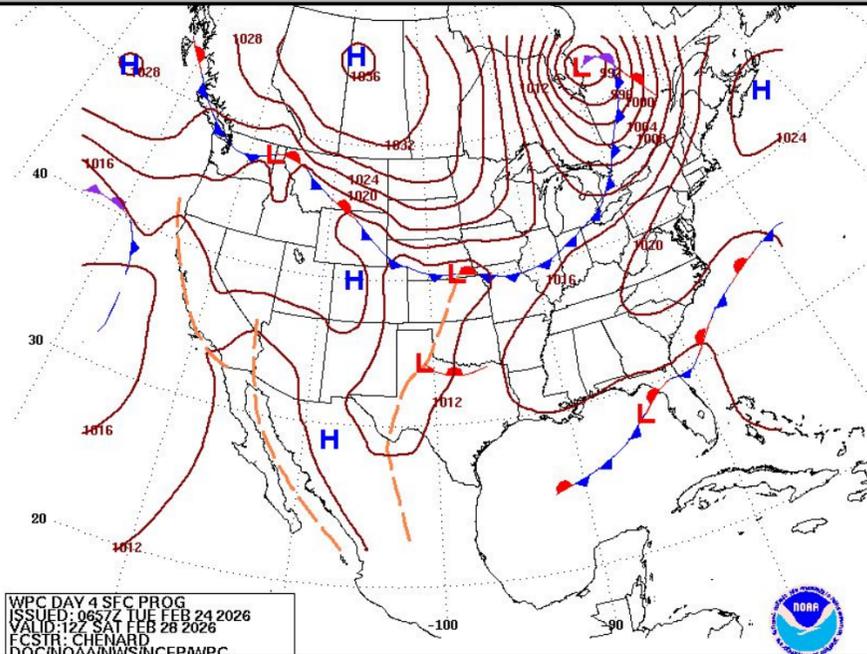
Excessive Rainfall Outlook





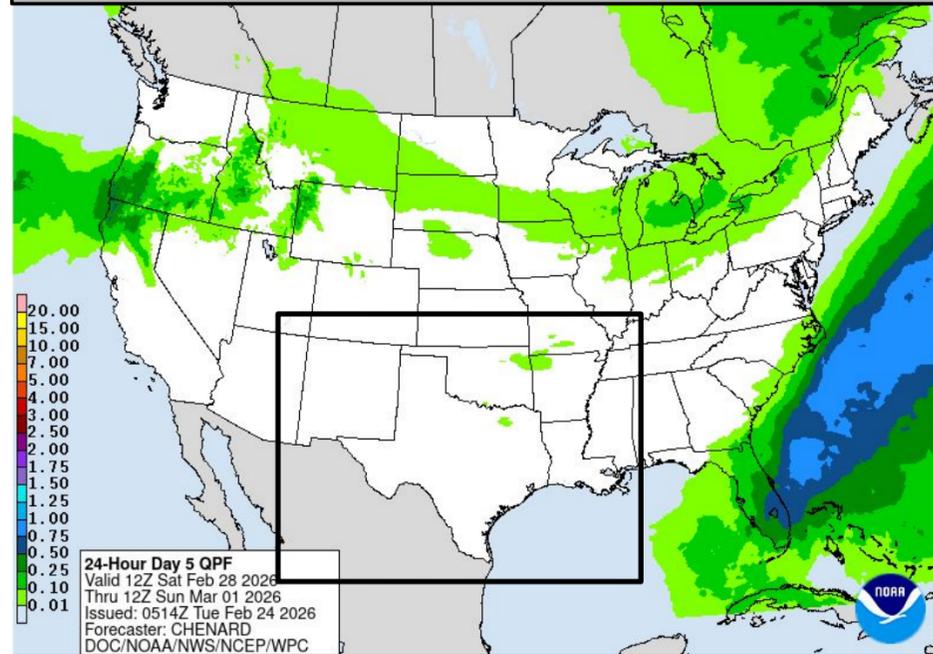
Saturday's Weather

Forecast Chart



WPC DAY 4 SEC PROG
ISSUED: 0637Z TUE FEB 24 2026
VALID: 12Z SAT FEB 28 2026
FCSTR: CHENARD
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

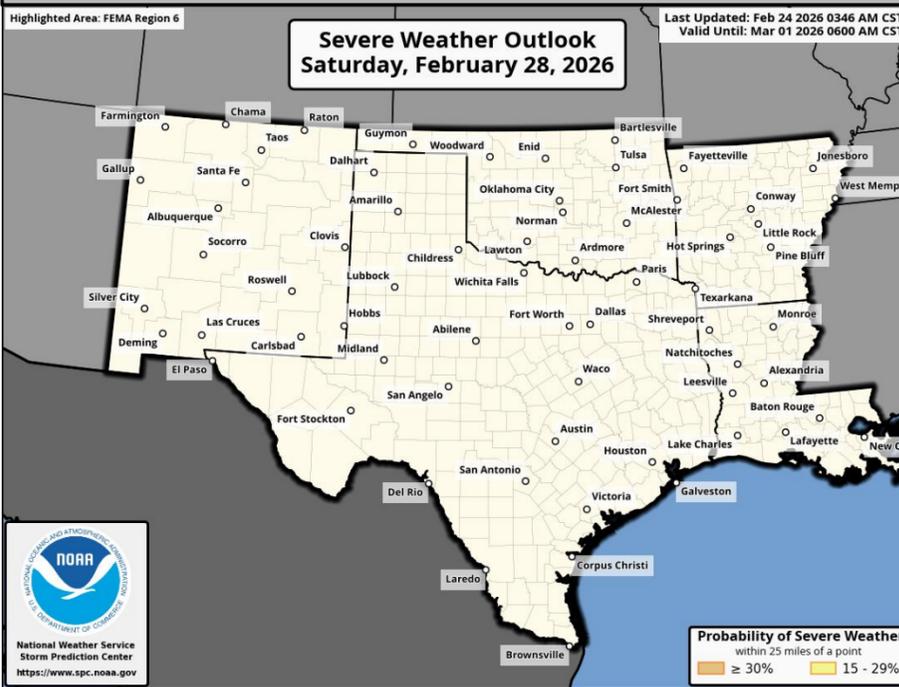
Forecast Rainfall



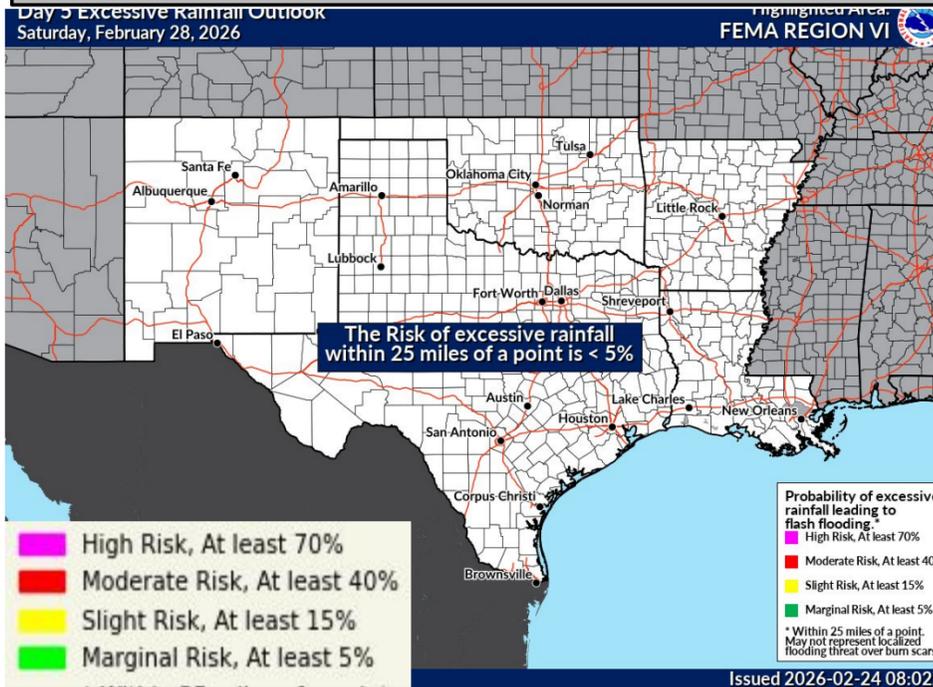
24-Hour Day 5 QPF
Valid 12Z Sat Feb 28 2026
Thru 12Z Sun Mar 01 2026
Issued: 0514Z Tue Feb 24 2026
Forecaster: CHENARD
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlook

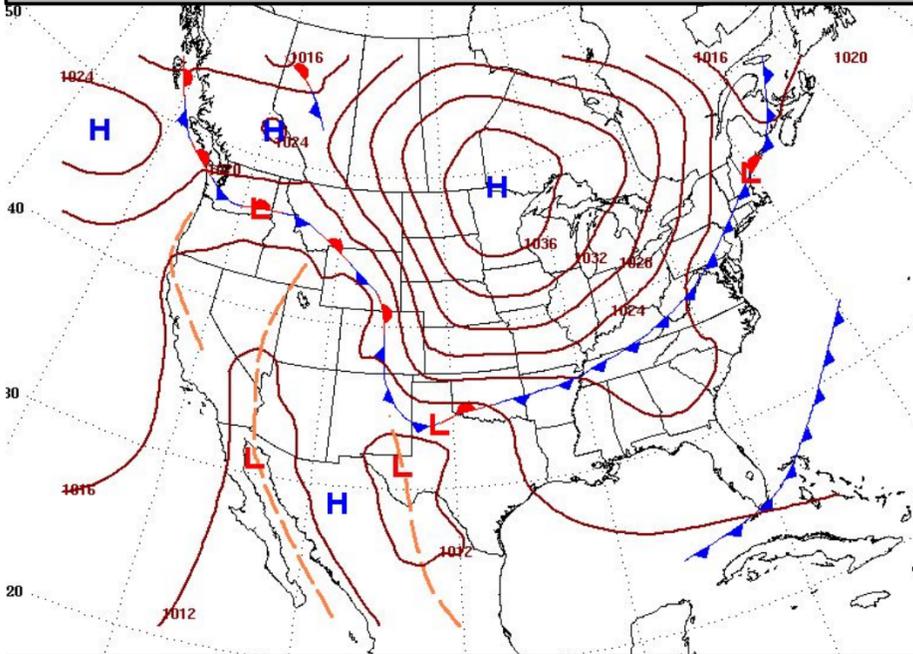


Issued 2026-02-24 08:02Z

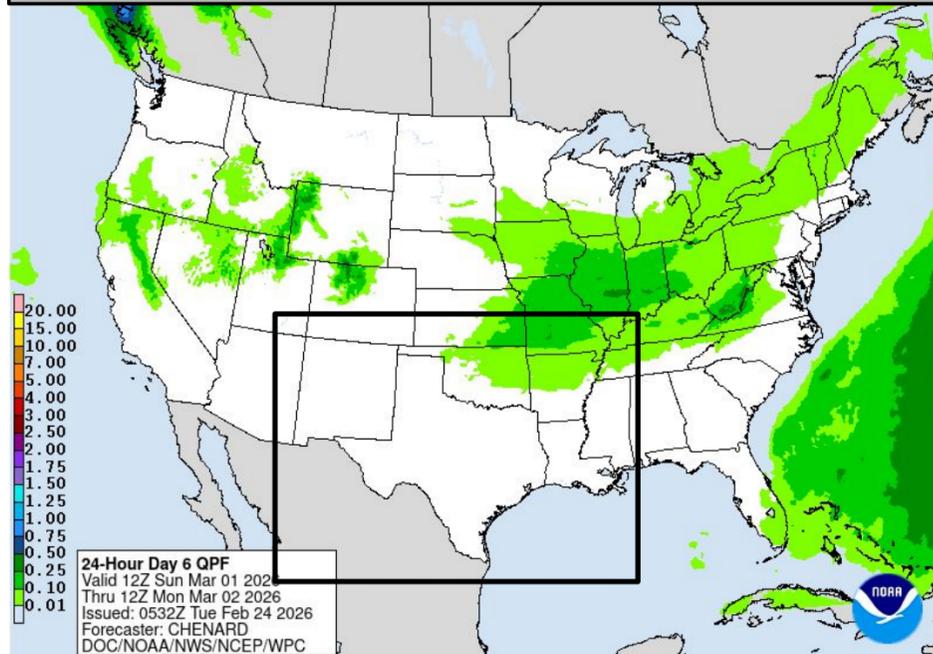


Sunday's Weather

Forecast Chart

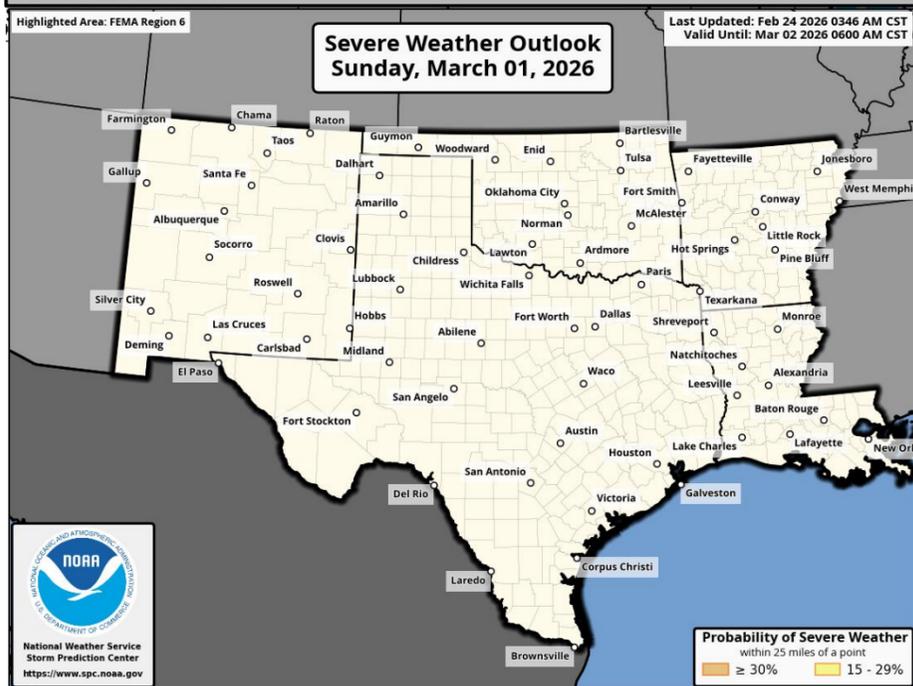


Forecast Rainfall



No significant weather expected.

Severe Weather Outlook

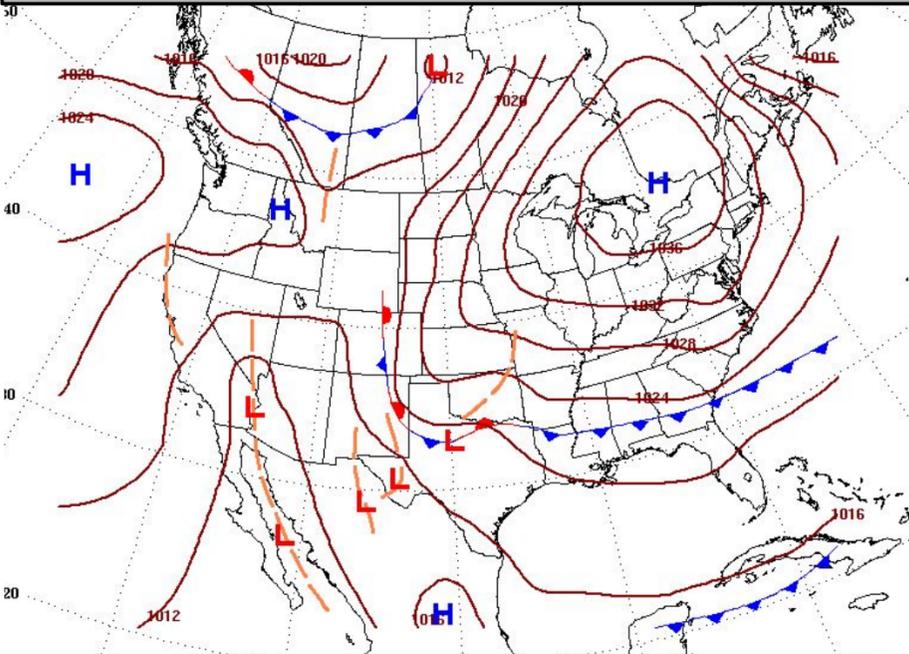


Excessive Rainfall Outlooks not available beyond Day 5

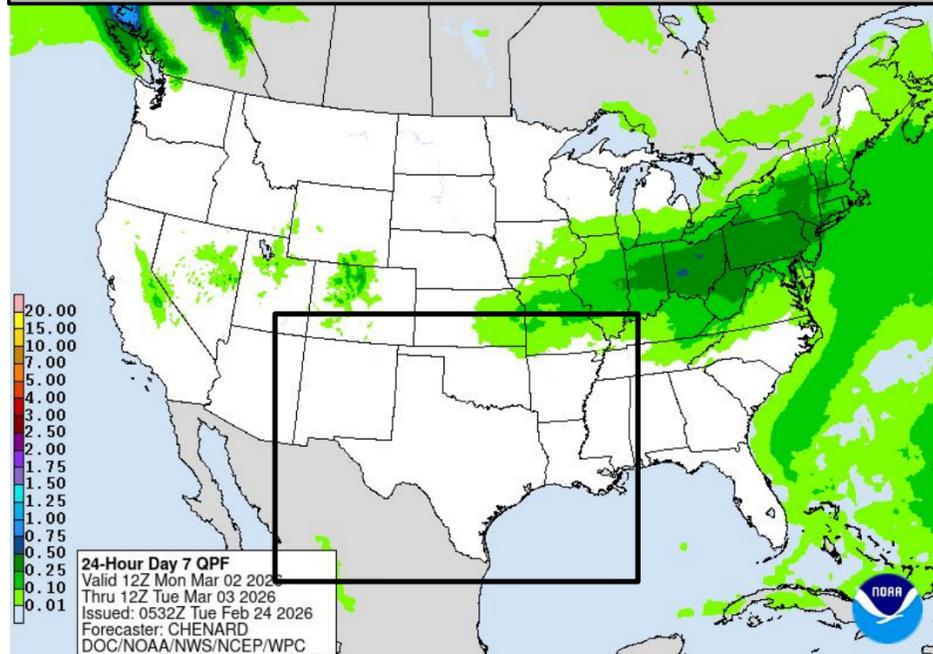


Monday's Weather

Forecast Chart

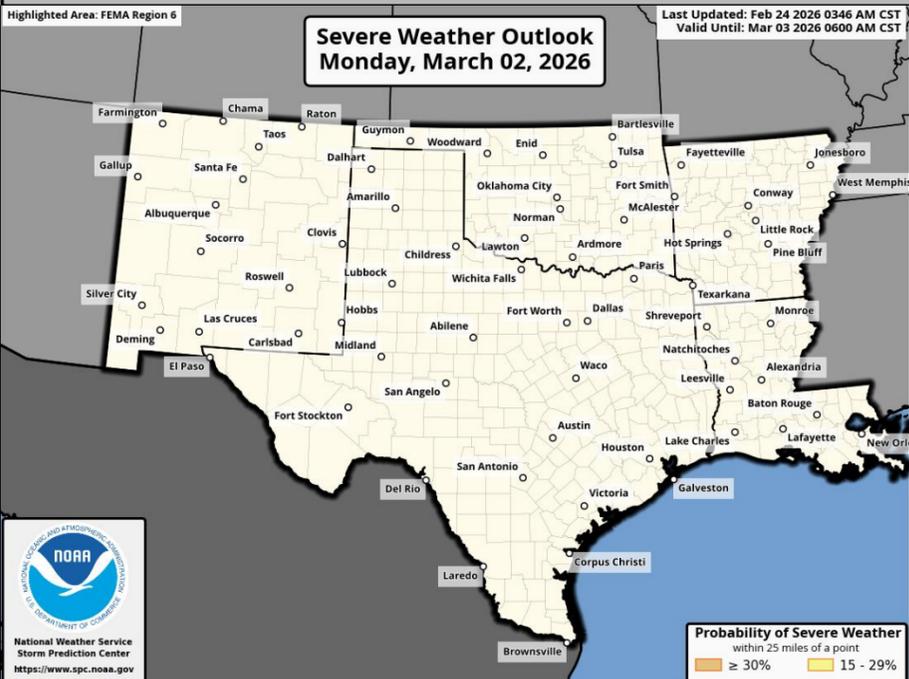


Forecast Rainfall



No significant weather expected.

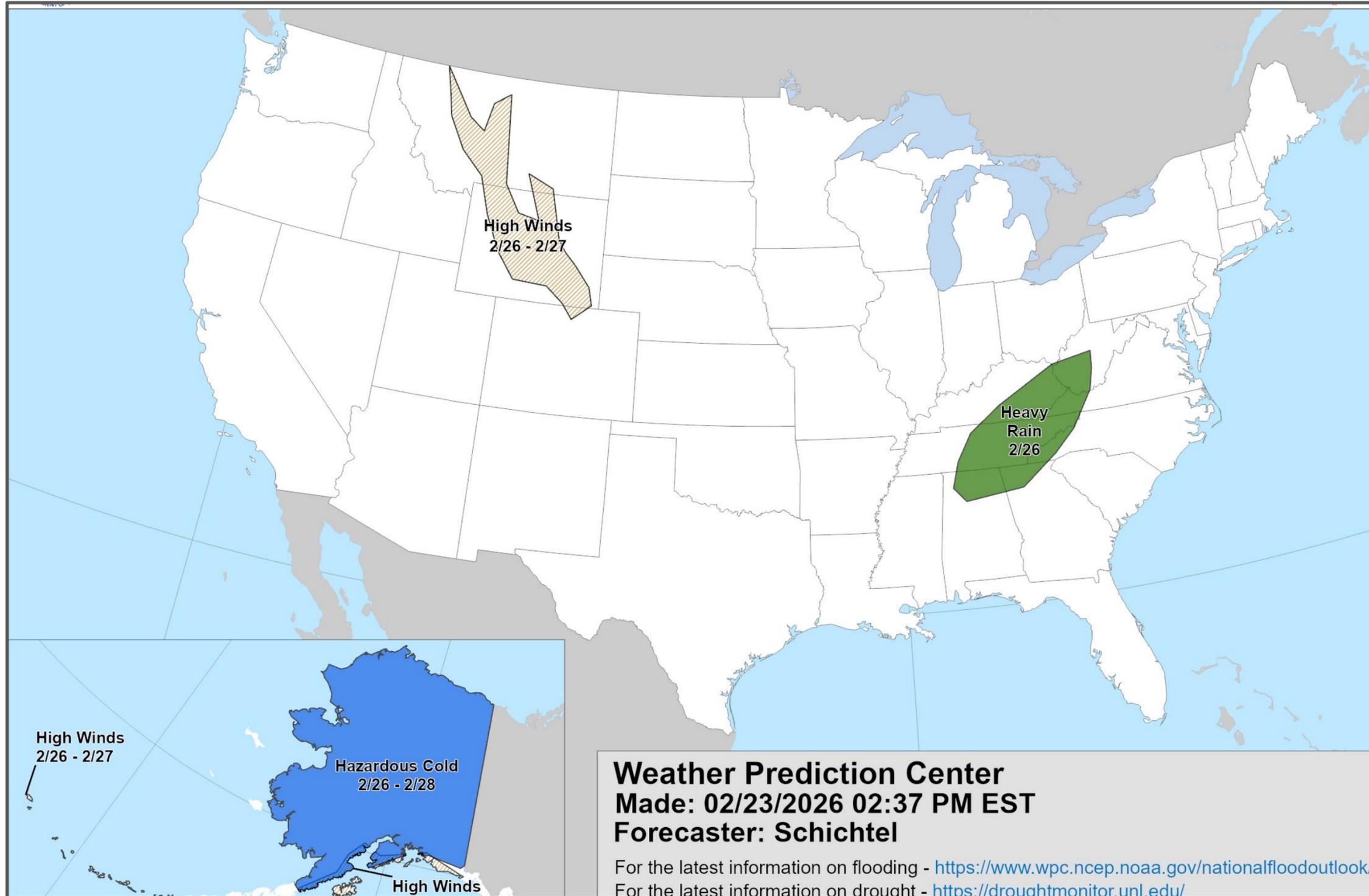
Severe Weather Outlook



Excessive Rainfall Outlooks not available beyond Day 5

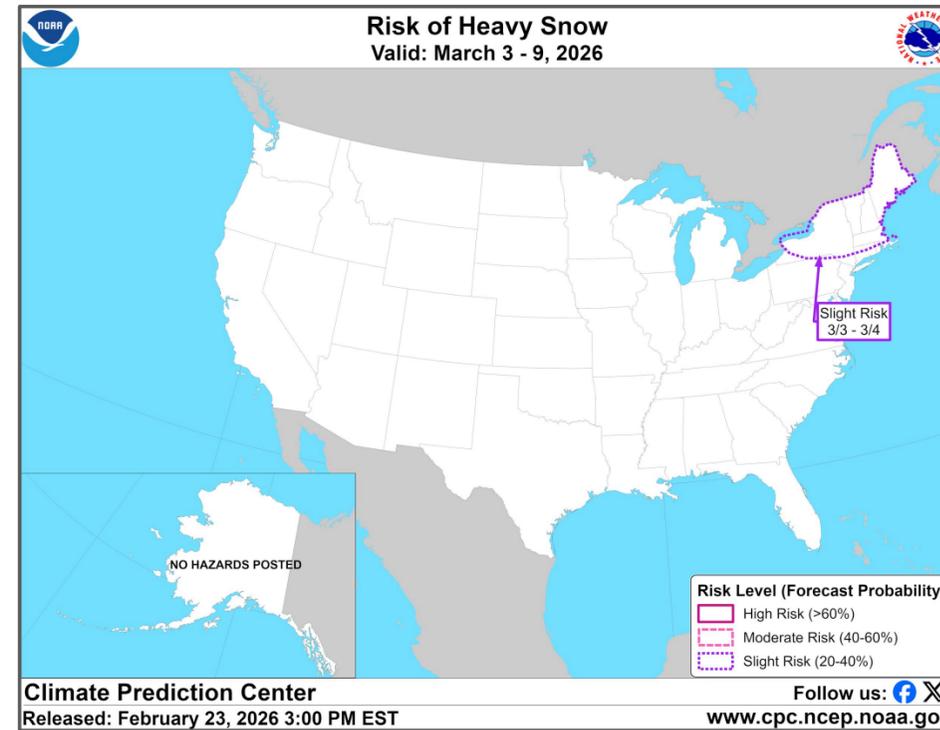
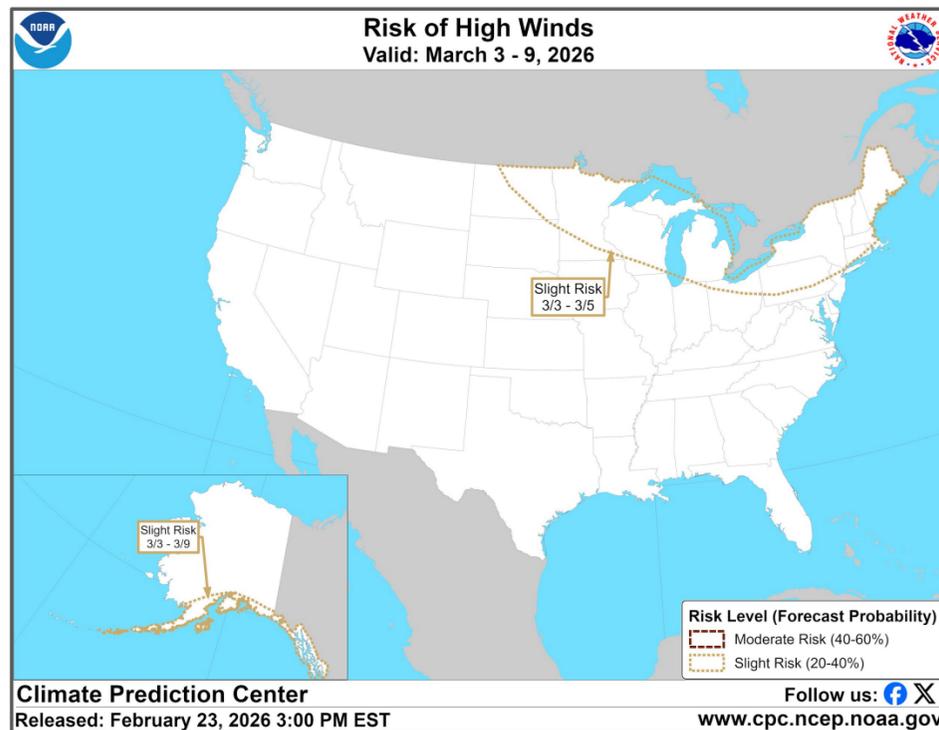
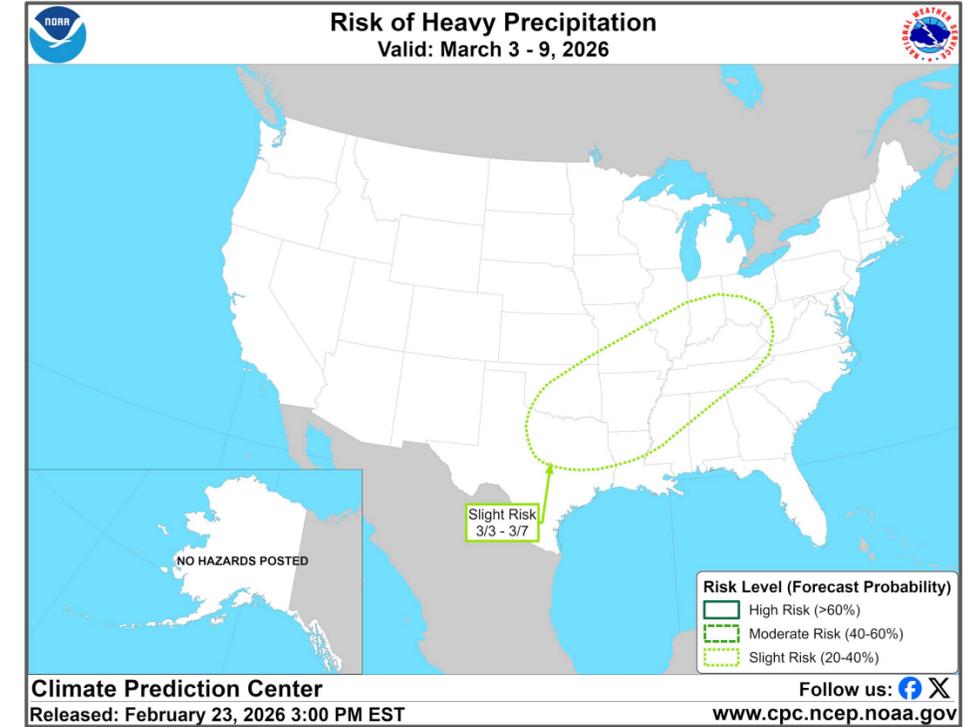
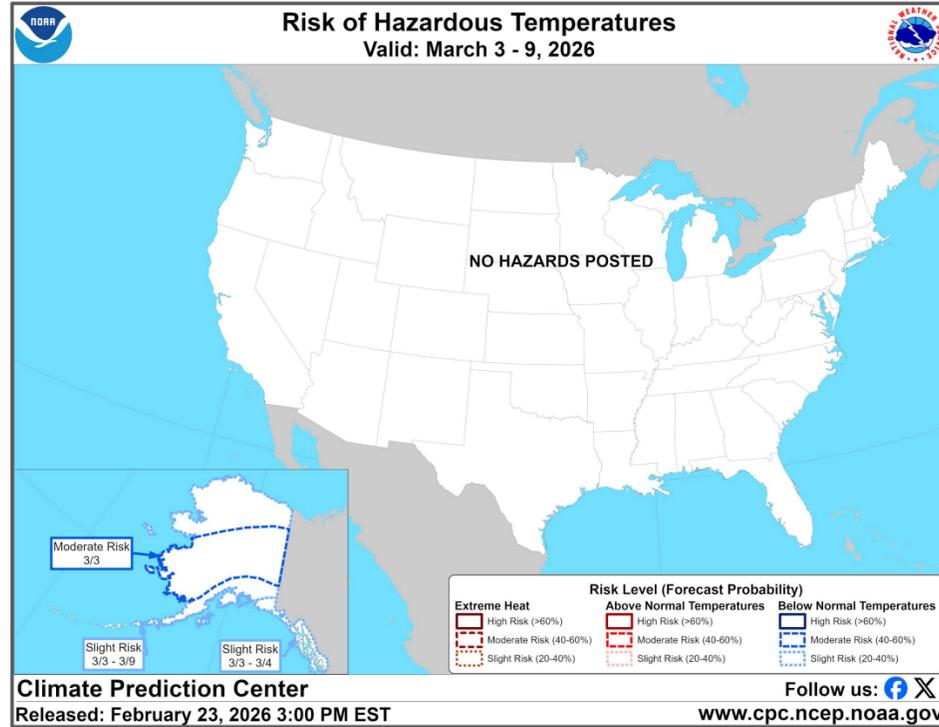
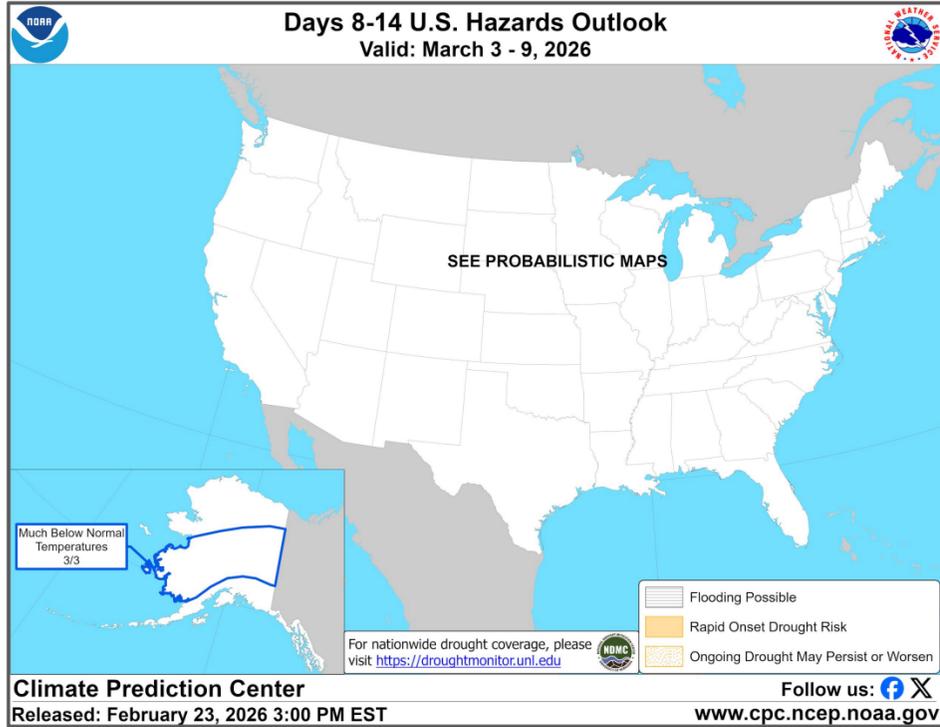


“Day 3-7” Hazards Outlook





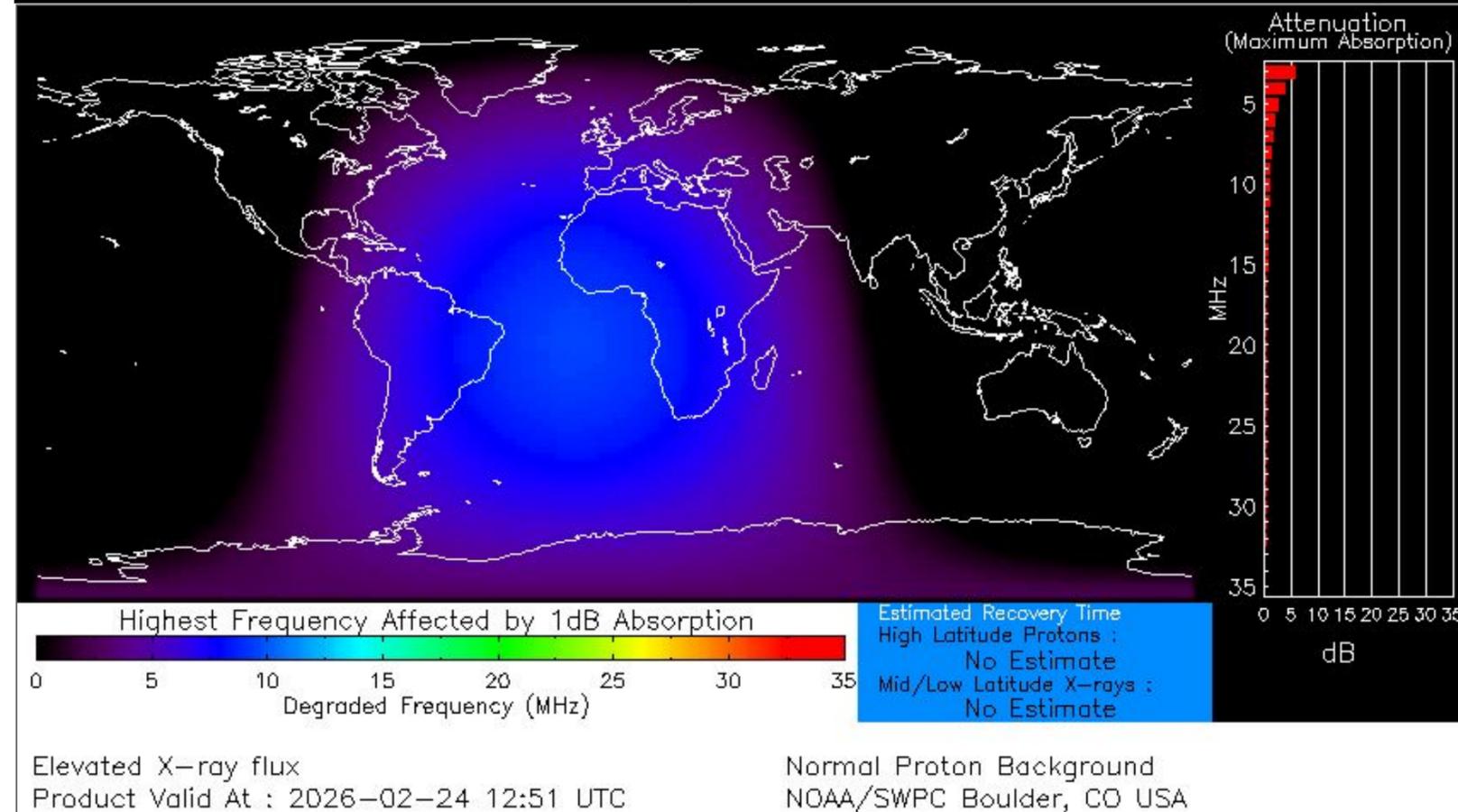
“Day 8-14” Hazards Outlook





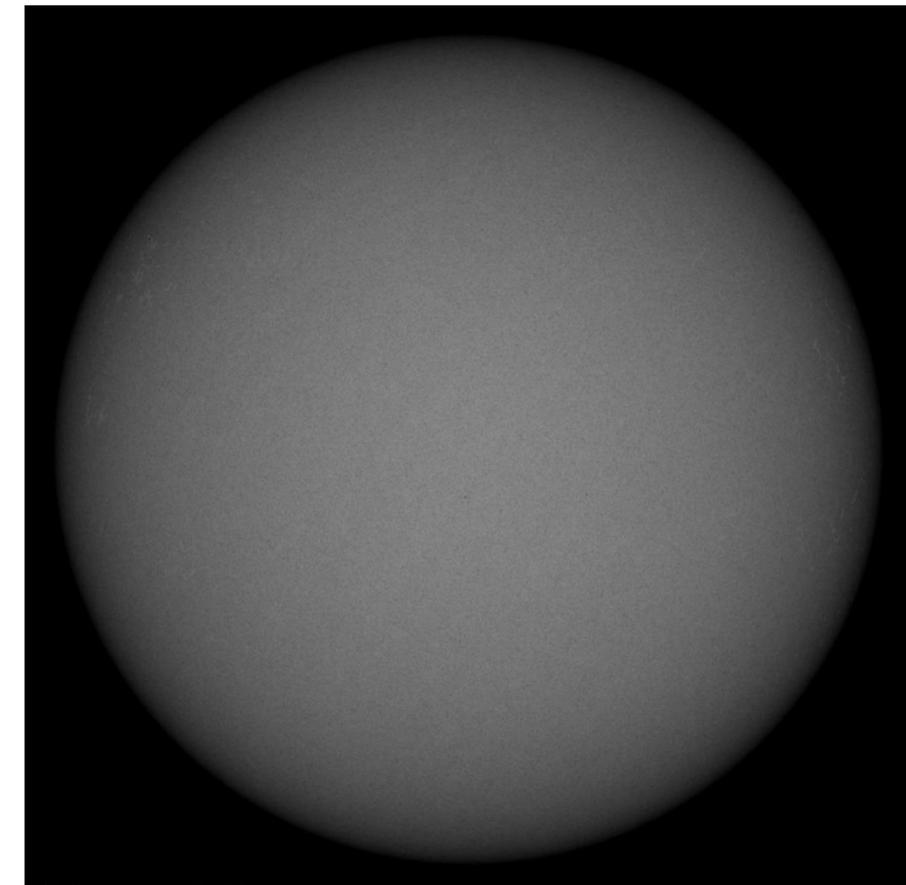
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast

| | Tuesday, Feb 24 | Wednesday, Feb 25 | Thursday, Feb 26 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Geomagnetic Storms | Active (Max Kp=4) | Unsettled (Max Kp=3) | 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](#)

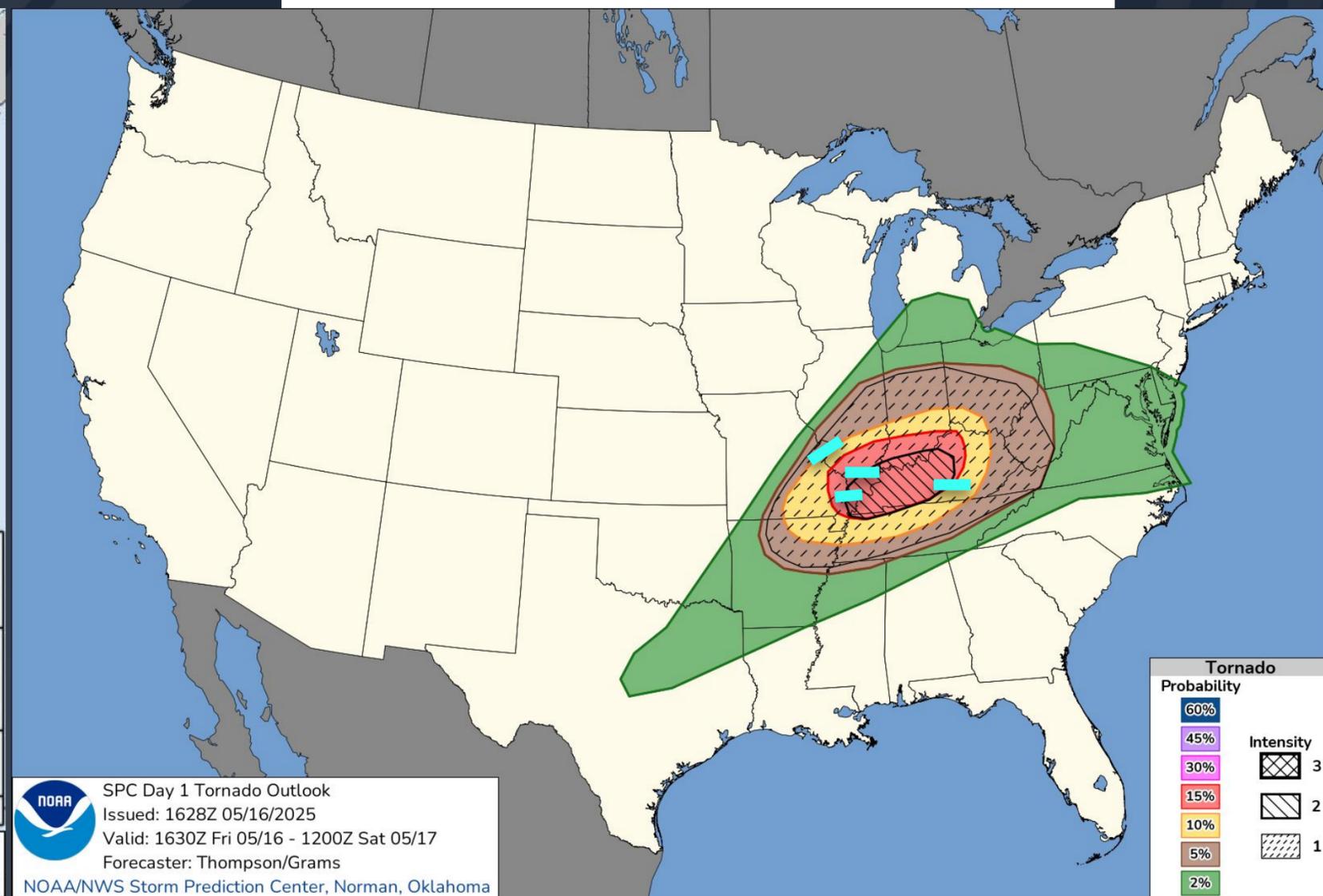
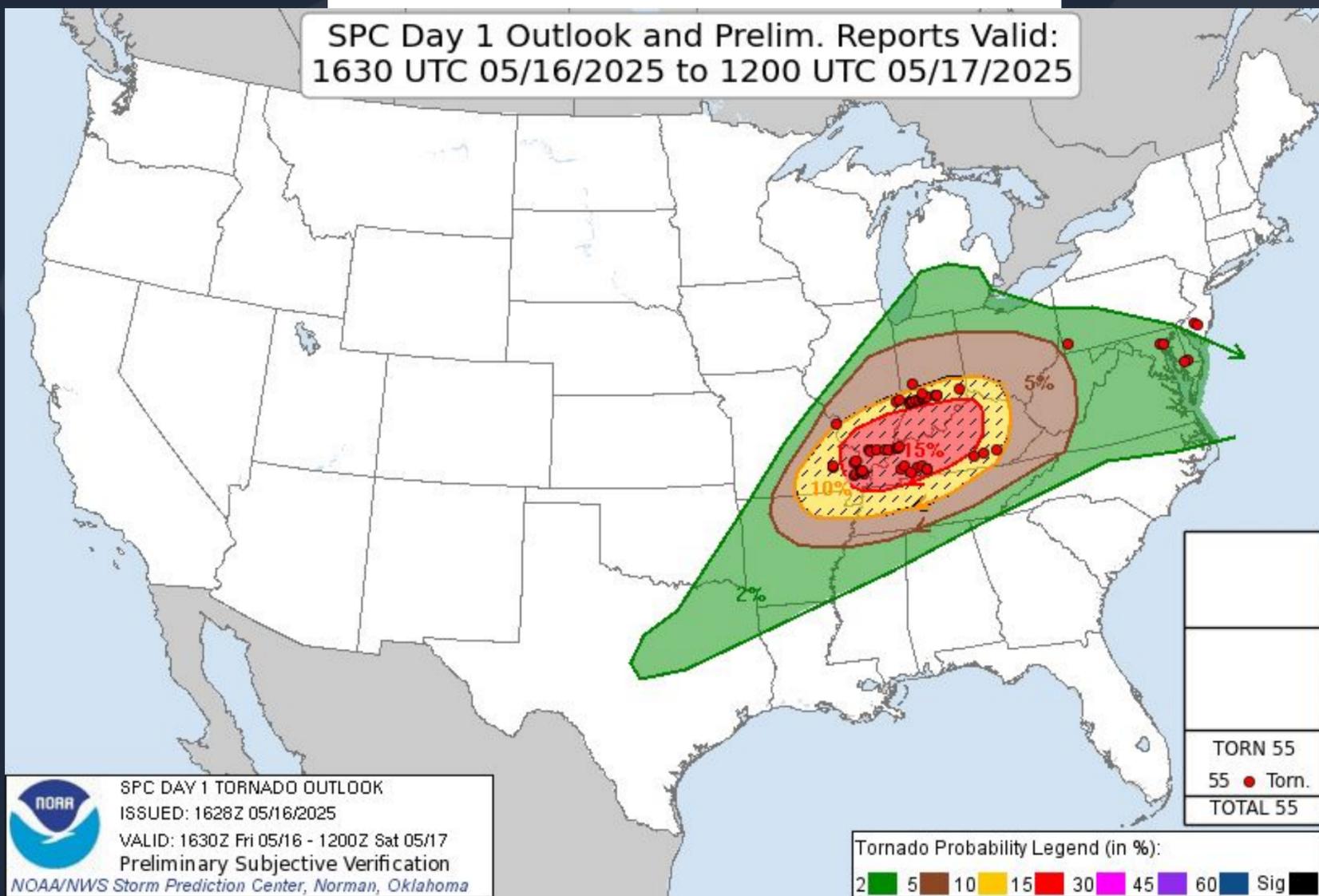


Storm Prediction Center Convective Outlook Changes in March 2026

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.

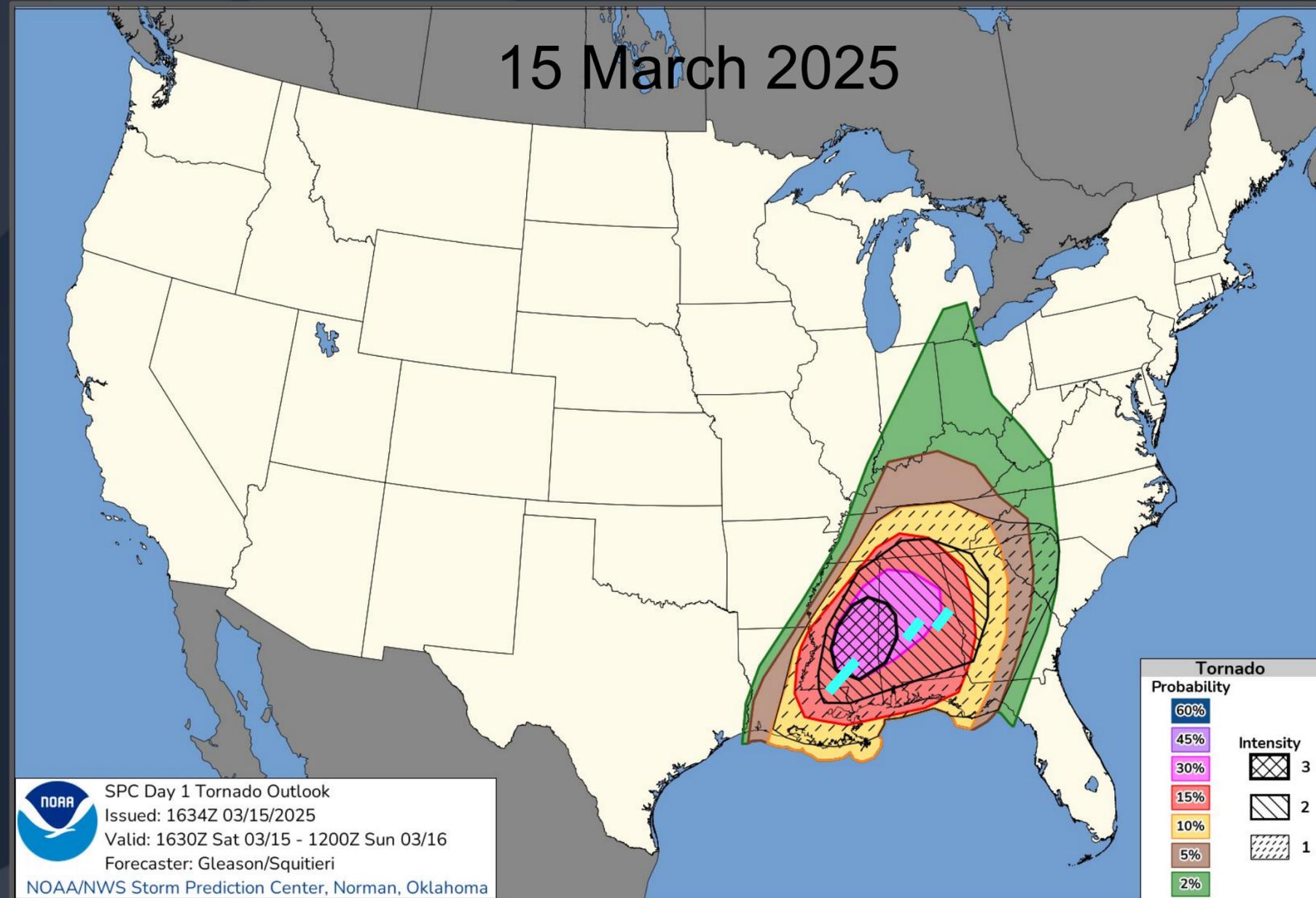
ENH in 2025 will be an ENH in 2026.

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> | 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 | <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> | 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 | <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> | 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 | <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> | 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 | <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> | 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 | <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



Phone: (682) 703-3747



Facebook: NWSSouthern



E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov



X: NWSSouthern



Web: www.weather.gov/srh