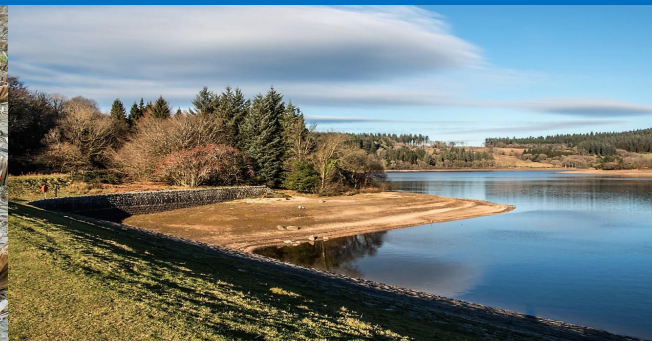
Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid January 5, 2024

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL
Contact Information: sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by February 5, 2024 or as drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

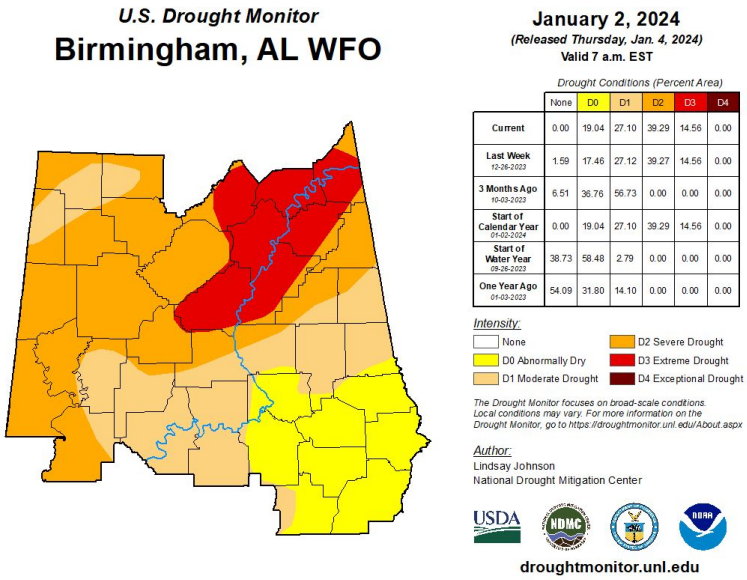


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
  - D3 Extreme Drought: Now covers much of the area between Shelby and Cherokee Counties and includes Calera and Gadsden.
  - D2 Severe Drought: Continues across much of the area and includes Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, Livingston and Demopolis.
  - D1 includes Selma, Prattville and Alex City.
  - D0 includes much of the I-85 corridor and surrounding area.

- Overall precipitation trend the next 2 weeks is for normal to above normal rainfall
  - The pattern has changed to more of a typical winter set up for Alabama but the systems we are looking at are typically fast moving and will only allow for slow drought improvement.



	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	19.04	27.10	39.29	14.56	0.00
Last Week 12-26-2023	1.59	17.46	27.12	39.27	14.56	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-03-2023	6.51	36.76	56.73	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	0.00	19.04	27.10	39.29	14.56	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	38.73	58.48	2.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 01-03-2023	54.09	31.80	14.10	0.00	0.00	0.00

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 9 am CDT Jan 2, 2024.

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Over most of central Alabama and especially over the northern half.
  - No Change: Persistent drought has been more common in the southern locations.
  - Drought Improved: A slight area of improvement was noted in parts of Lee and Russell counties due to a heavy rain event in middle October.

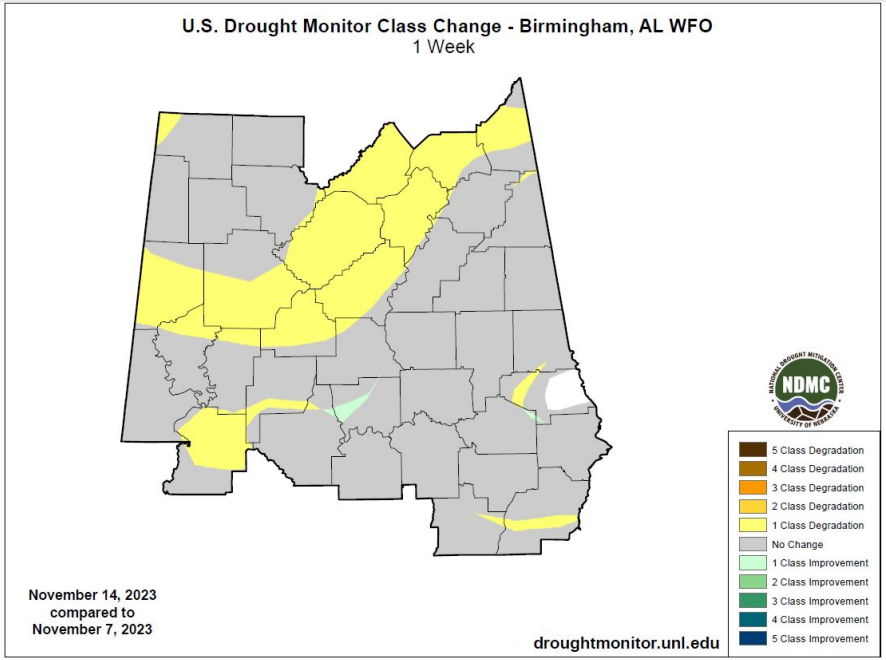


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 9 am CDT Nov 14, 2023

Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Some showers and thunderstorms moved through the area over the last 30 days providing for some general improvements.
- However, much of the area still remains below normal over this period.
- Average weekly rainfall for the month of January should be around 1 to 1.25 inches.

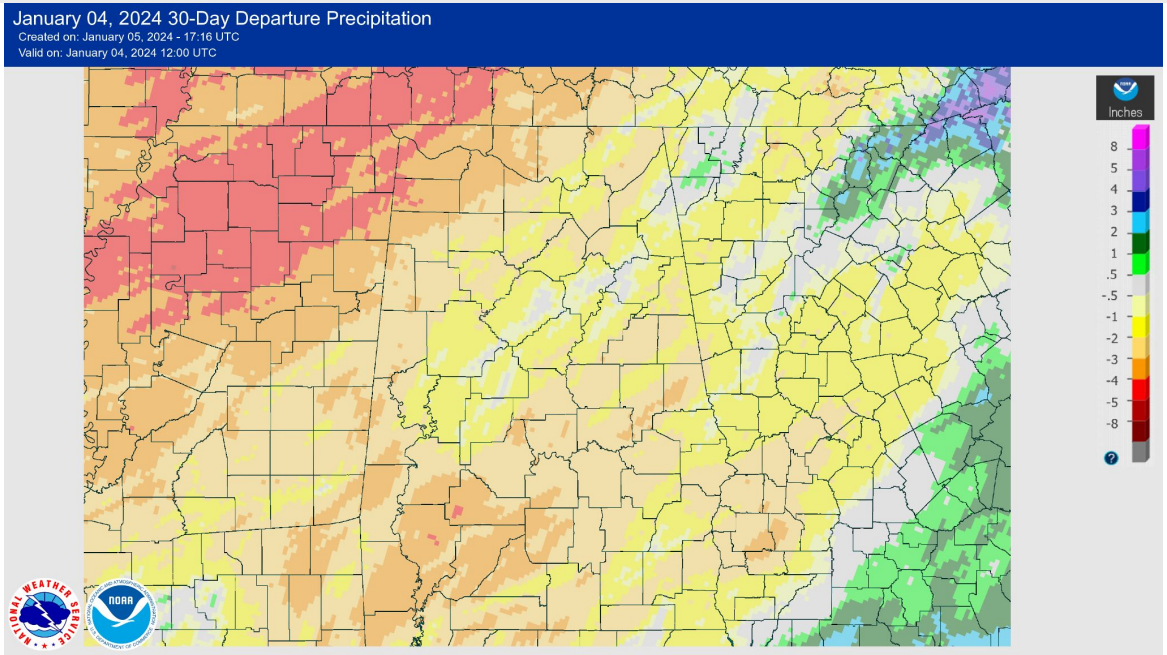
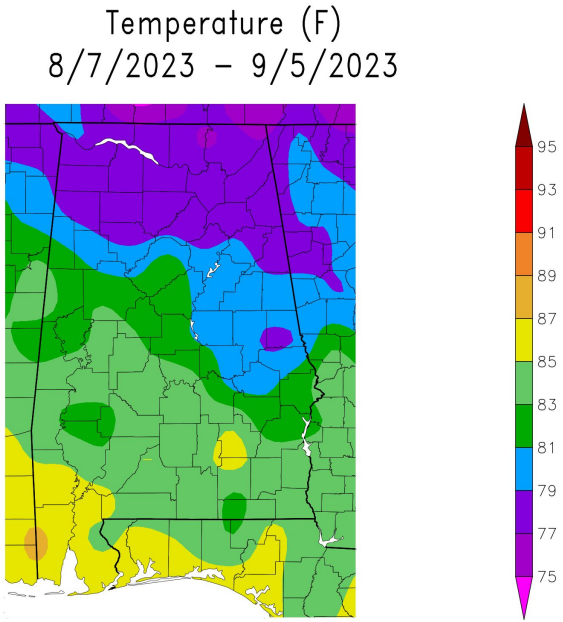


Image Captions:
Map - Departure from normal map for Alabama
Data Courtesy Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)
Data over the past 30 days ending Jan 4, 2024

Temperature

- Summarize conditions/impacts here



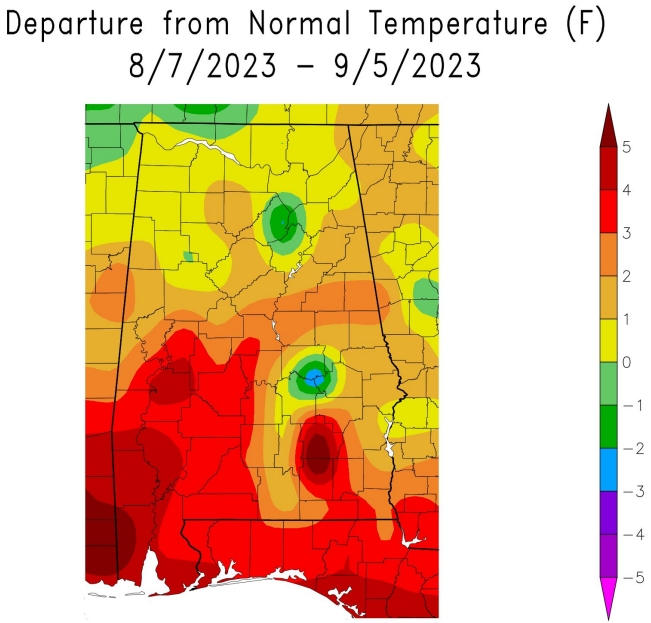


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Month, DD, YYYY

Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below to much below normal across most basins in the region. See next slide for more details

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest Crop Report from the USDA.
- Overall, crop and cattle conditions stabilized or improved slightly by the end of December.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has diminished through December and early January.

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days show most of the area as well below normal. A significant increase in rainfall will be needed to keep streamflows in the normal range.
- Click the link the right for a full map and legend to the image provided.

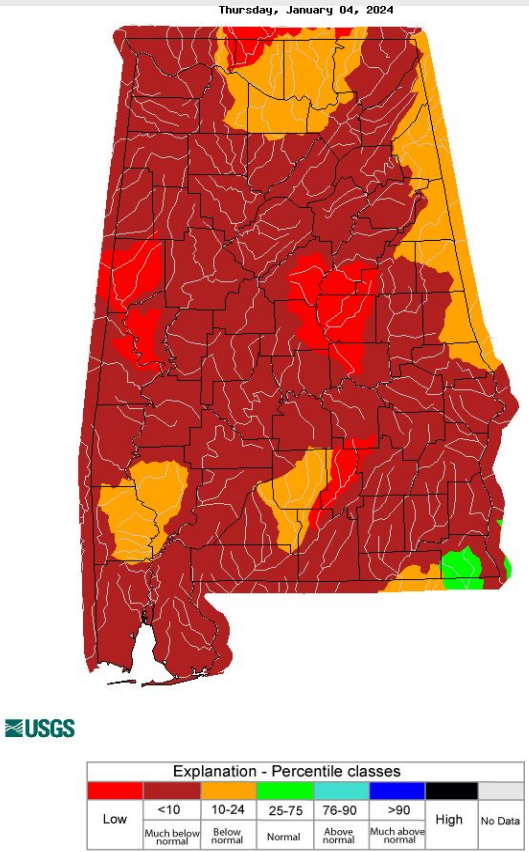


Figure Caption: USGS 7 day streamflows for Alabama, valid Jan 4, 2024

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil Moistures have continued to decrease over the past 7 days with all of Alabama showing below normal soil moisture. Thus far, the dry weather has prevented planting of winter crops. Cotton, peanut and soybean harvest are near completion.
- Cattle were reported to be in good to fair condition, while pastures were in poor to fair condition. Cattle continue to be fed supplemental hay.
- Crop reports will be discontinued for the winter season starting December.

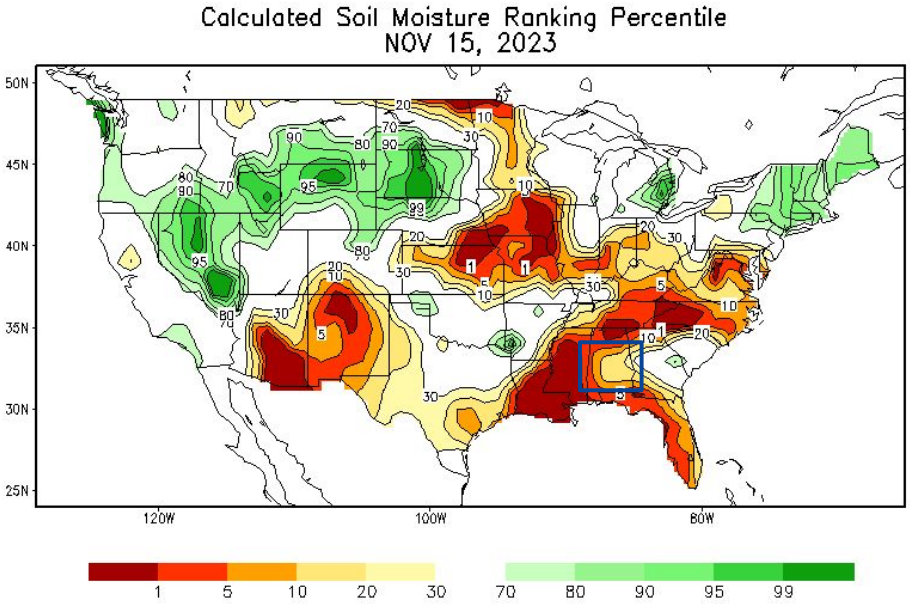


Image Captions:
Right: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid November 15, 2023

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values are averaging between 300 to 500 across the entire area. This is an improvement from previous weeks.
- Wildland fire activity has been near normal past week, and outlooks suggest this will continue through December.

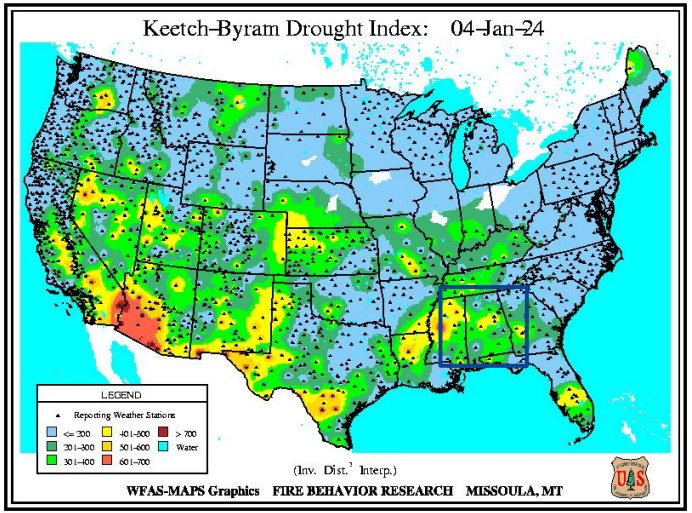


Image caption: National KBDI image released January 4th

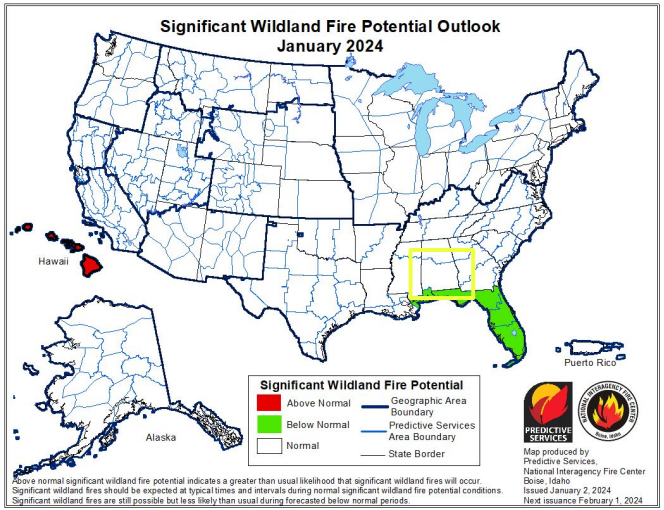


Image Caption: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for January 2024

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Alabama Forestry Commision

- In response to the current drought conditions, Governor Kay Ivey has issued a statewide ‘No burn order’.
- The Alabama drought declaration map has most of Alabama in a watch or warning status.
- Click the link above for more information.

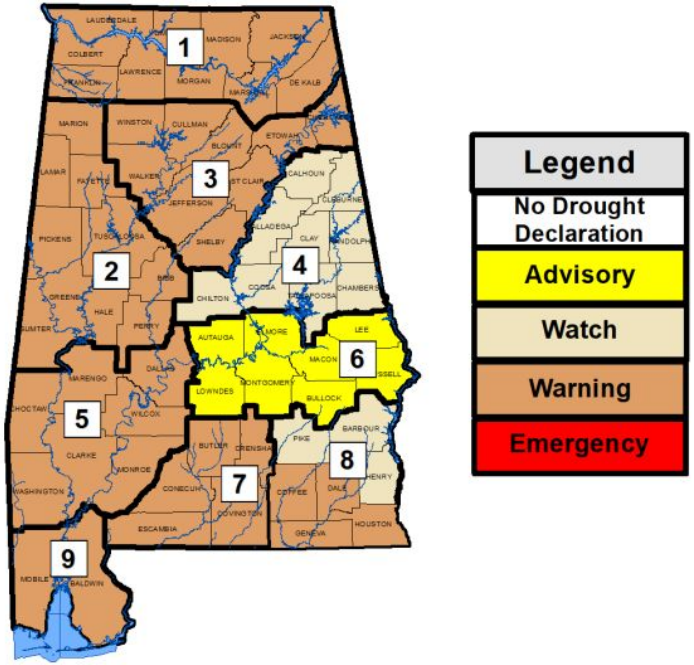


Image caption: Alabama drought declaration map image

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall amounts over the next 7 days are expected to be around 3 to 4 inches. This would be well above typical average rainfall for central Alabama and would be beneficial in improving drought conditions.

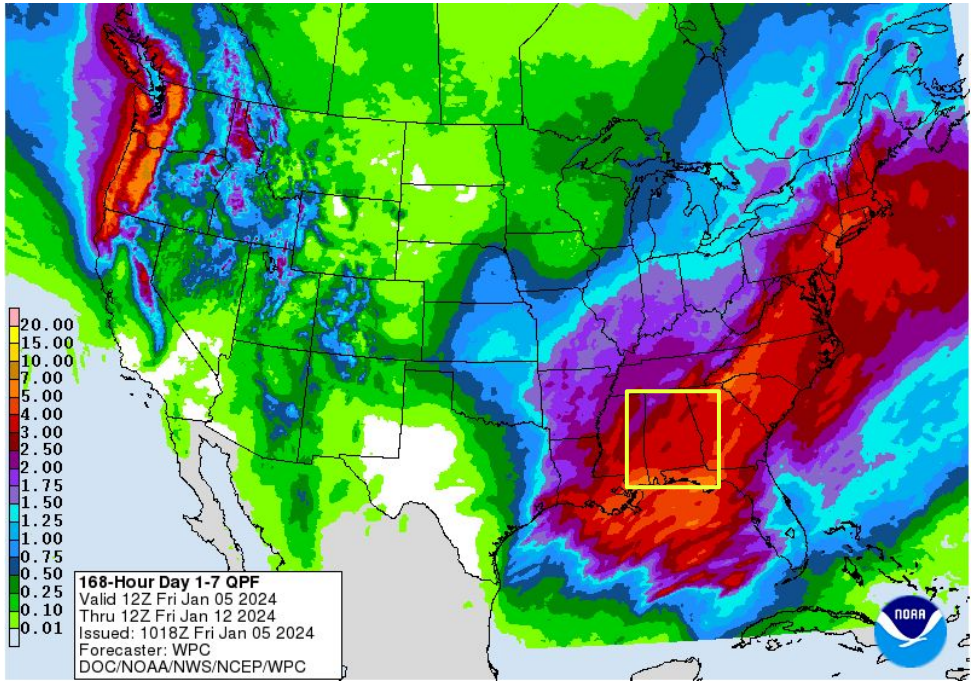


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Jan 5th to Jan 12th

Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

- Continued hot temperatures and a lack of rainfall over the next 1-2 weeks will lead to continued Rapid Onset Drought impacts in south-central Texas.

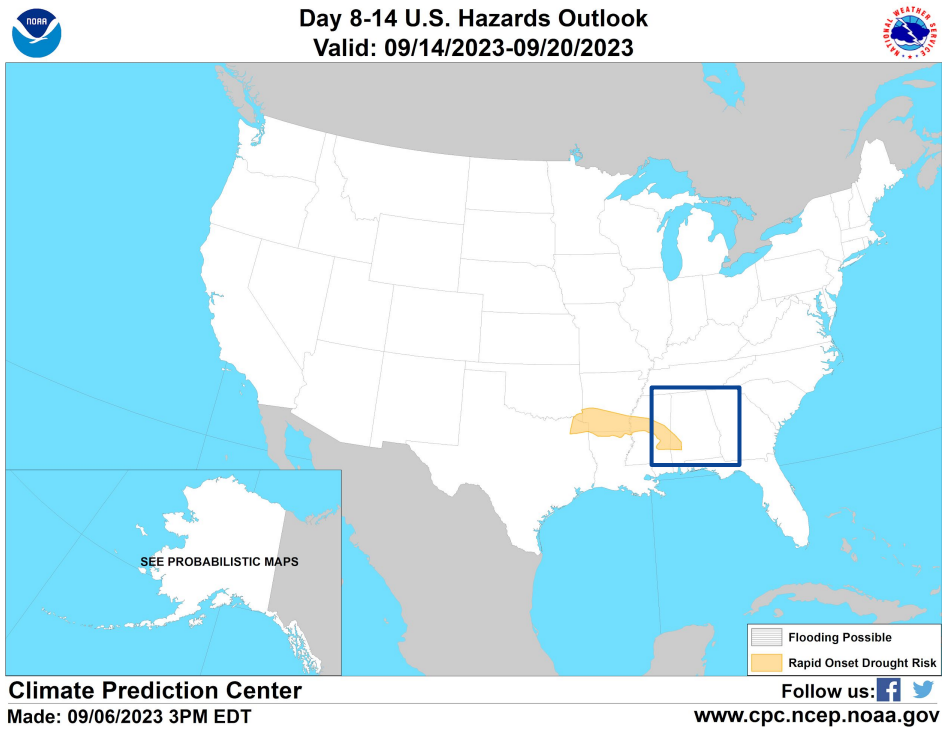
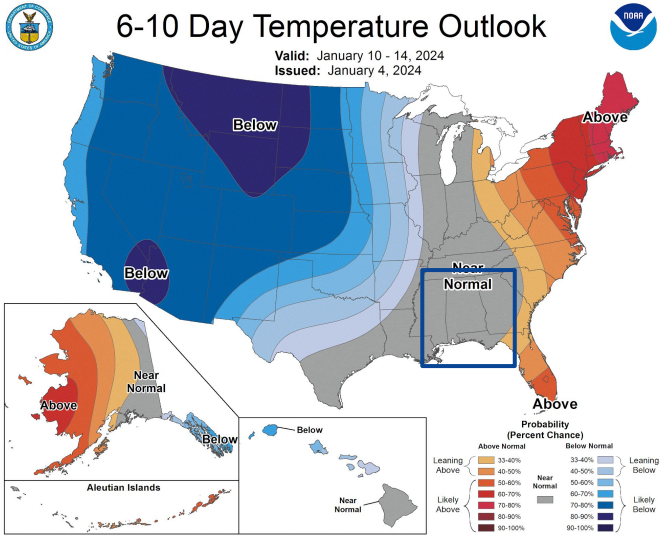


Image Caption:
Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid August 2, 2023

Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The outlook over the next 6 to 10 days will call for near normal temperatures across the area.
- Rainfall amounts are expected to be above normal over the next 6 to 10 days.



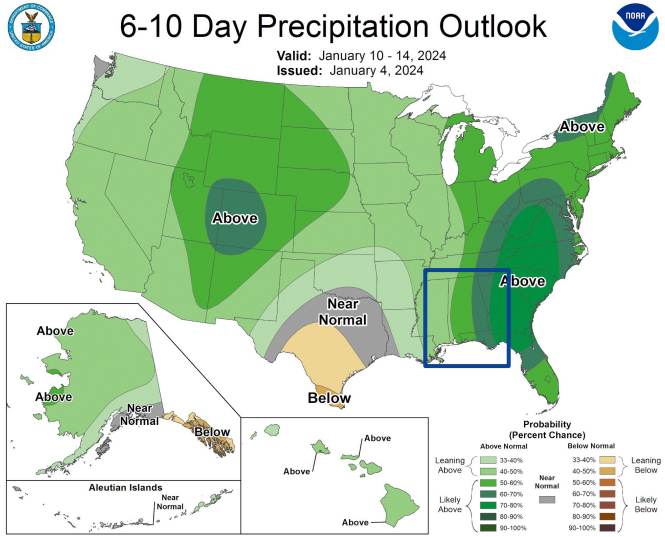
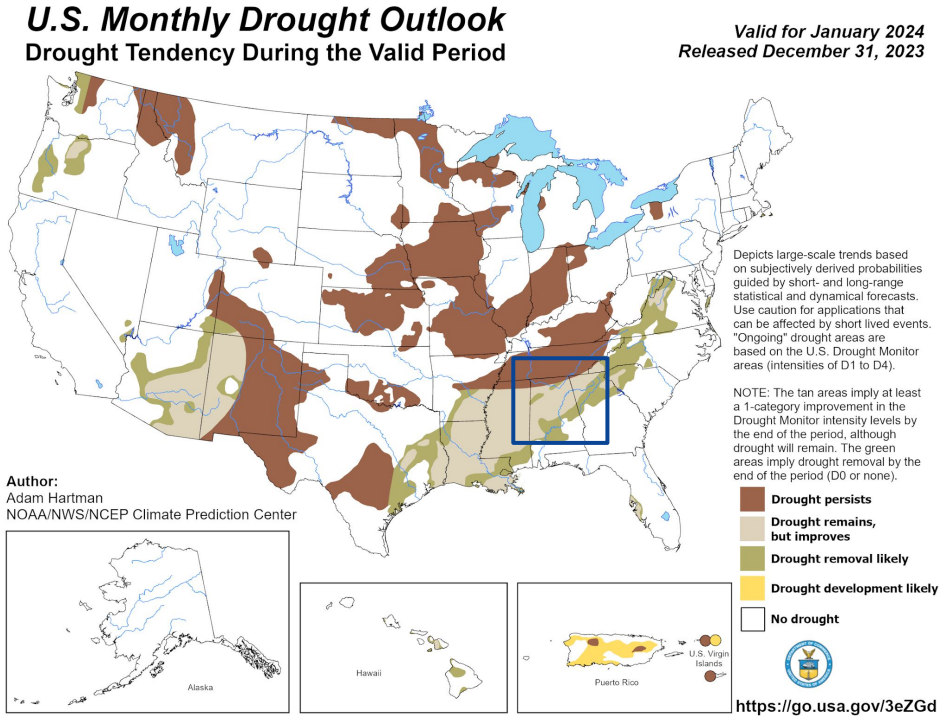


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 6 to 10 day Precipitation Outlook.

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought is expected to generally improve or remain steady across the entire area by the end of January.
- Drought removal is expected over some parts of the area in the southern locations.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Image Caption:
CPC Monthly Drought Outlook Released December 31, 2023 and valid now through January 31.