



NWS Houston, Texas March 2018 Regional Climate Summary

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... Rain on One Day Did Not Keep the Drought Away ...

The month of March was rather dry with three of the primary climate sites reporting below normal rainfall totals. With most of the rainfall occurring on March 29th over SE TX, drought conditions expanded and worsened across the western reaches and coastal areas. On the contrary, the northern counties mainly north of I-10 saw above normal rainfall totals also due to the rainfall that fell towards the end of the month. Above normal temperatures were also felt, and the feeling of Spring like weather began to settle in across SE TX.

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Precipitation

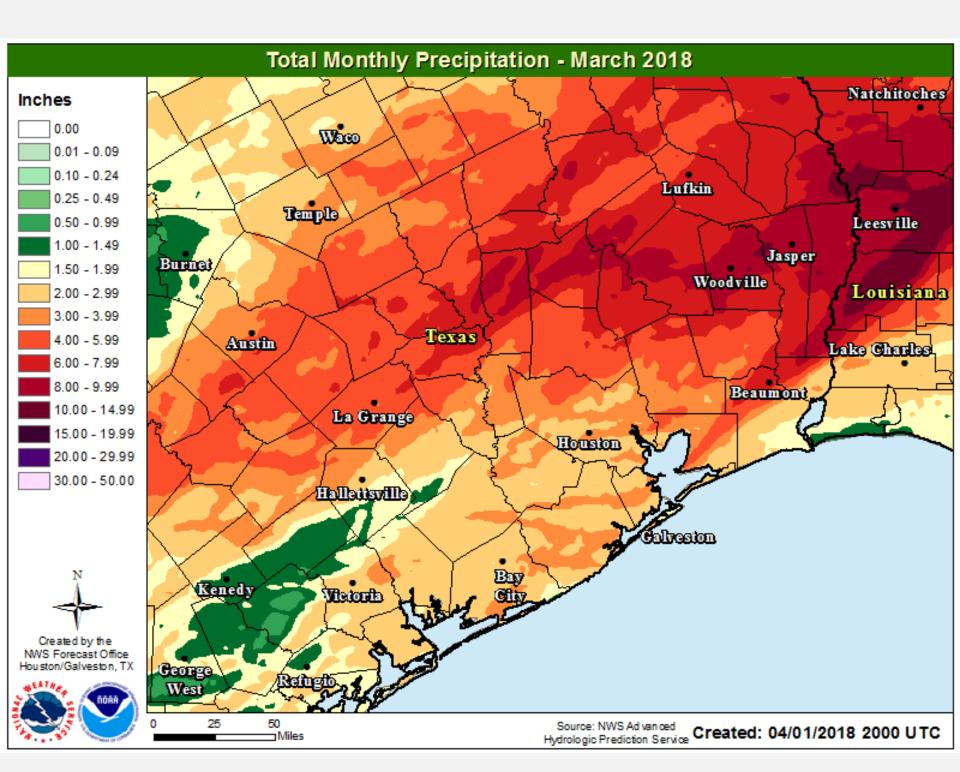
The month of March brought above normal rainfall amounts to much of the region north of I-10, while to the south, the month of March left a rainfall deficit of 0.25 to more than 1.5 inches. Most of the rainfall that did occur, happened over the course of nearly 48 hours on March 28th and March 29th. The City of College Station was the only primary site to see above normal rainfall totals, finishing up the month with 6.16 inches, a little over doubling their monthly normal rainfall total. Additionally, the 28th was the wettest calendar day for College Station during the month of March, and this March was also the 7th wettest on record.

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Number of Thunderstorm Days	Maximu Precipitatio	ım Daily on (in./date)
Galveston (GLS)	1.34	-1.65	5	1.02	Mar 29th
Houston Hobby (HOU)	1.93	-1.27	5	1.34	Mar 29th
City of Houston (IAH)	2.97	-0.44	4	1.47	Mar 29th
College Station (CLL)	6.16	+2.99	5	4.52	Mar 28th





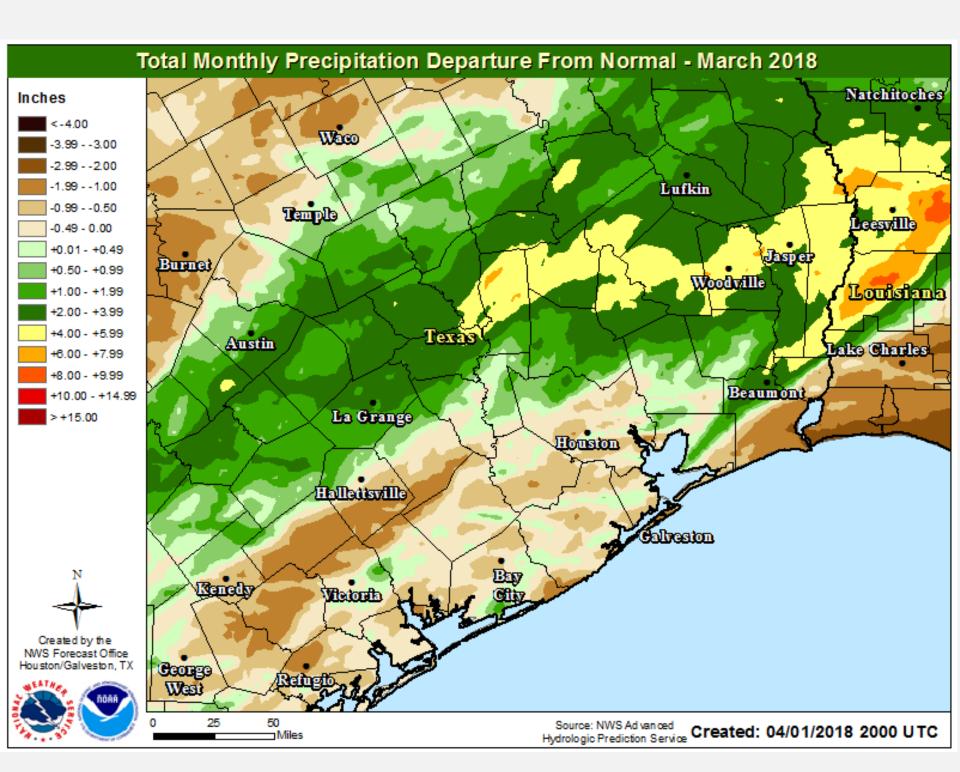
Precipitation (Continued)







Precipitation (Continued)

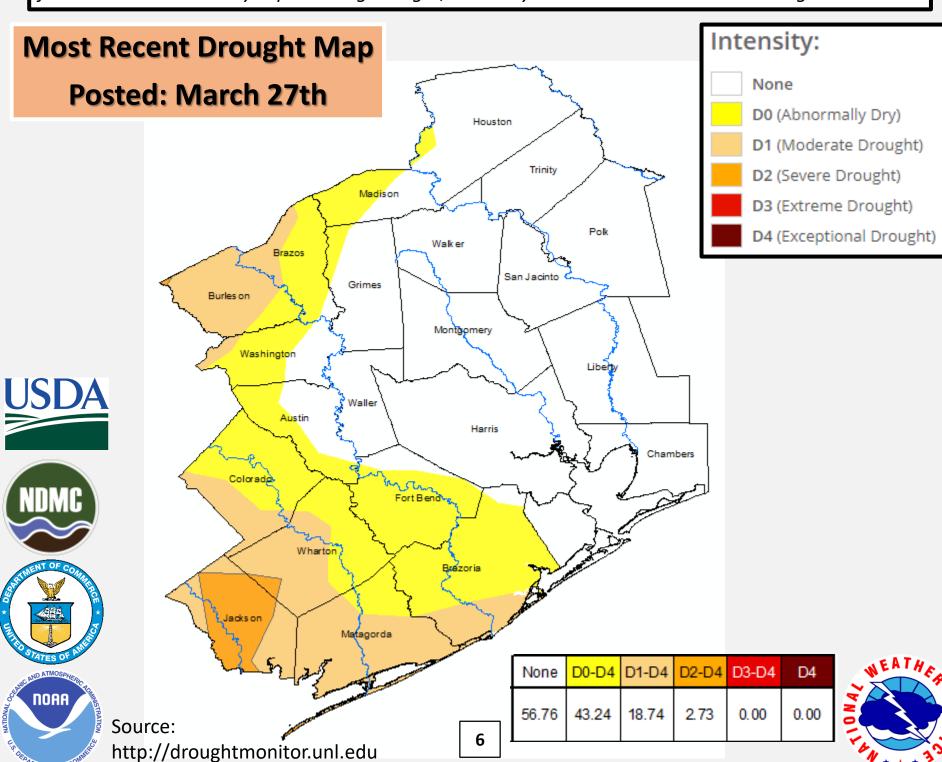






Drought Conditions

Abnormally dry to severe drought conditions held tight along the coast and western reaches of the forecast area throughout the month of March. Little relief was felt due to the lack of rainfall over these portions of the forecast area. Although much of SE TX received a swath of 3 to 6 inch rainfall in the last week of March, the part of the area experiencing the worst drought conditions only received between 1 to 2 inches of rainfall. Further degradation of D1 conditions were made across the Wharton, Matagorda, and Brazoria counties in this week's US Drought Monitor Report. Elsewhere across the region, D0 conditions expanded eastward into Washington, Austin, Fort Bend, Brazoria, and Galveston counties. No major changes were made to D2 conditions. Overall, roughly 43% of the forecast area is currently experiencing drought, with only 3% area under moderate drought criteria.



Temperatures

Temperatures throughout the month of March well exceeded normal values by 4-6 degrees. The warmest high temperatures remained right below 90 degrees, and the coolest low temperatures fell into the low 40s and 50s. Overall, a total of eight high maximum and high minimum temperature records were broken throughout the month, across the four primary climate sites. Six of the eight temperature records were set at the City of Galveston. On March 19th, the City of Galveston set a new high maximum record temperature of 89 degrees, well surpassing the previous record of 80 degrees set back in 1954.

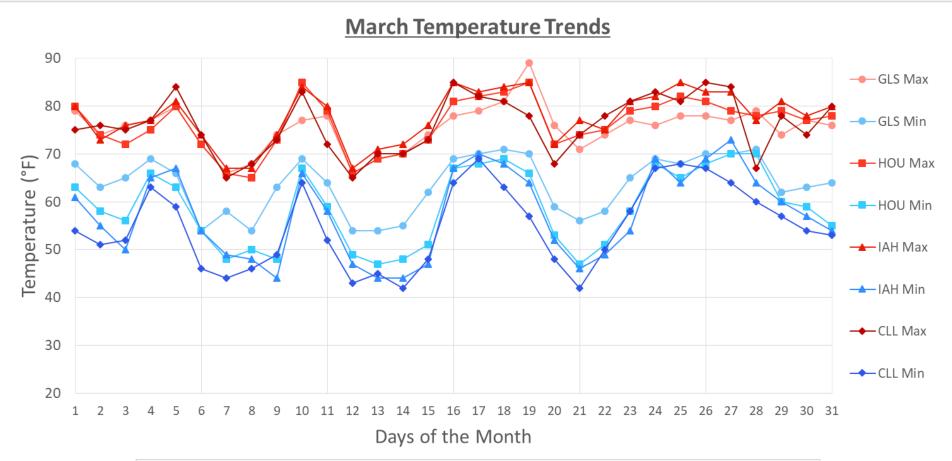
Site	Average Temp (F)	Average High Temp (F)	Average Low Temp (F)	Normal Average Temp (F)	Departure From Normal (F)	Maximum Temperature (F)	Minimum Temperature (F)
Galveston (GLS)	69.6	75.5	63.6	63.5	+6.1	89 on Mar. 19th	54 on Mar. 12th & 13th
Houston Hobby (HOU)	67.5	76.3	58.7	63.3	+4.2	85 on Mar. 10th & 19th	44 on Mar. 13th & 21st
City of Houston (IAH)	67.6	77.7	57.4	62.7	+4.9	85 on Mar. 19th & 25th	44 on Mar. 14th & 13th
College Station (CLL)	65.5	76.1	54.8	61.4	+4.1	85 on Mar. 16th & 26th	42 on Mar. 14th & 21st

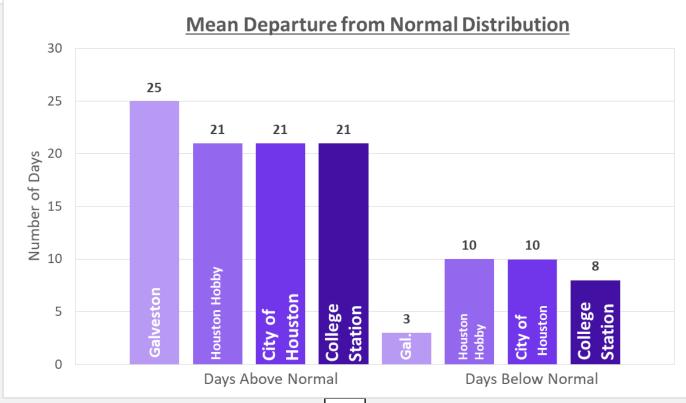


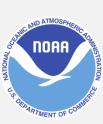


Temperatures (Continued)

Below is a line graph of temperature trends for the four primary climate sites, as well as a bar graph comparing above and below normal temperature days throughout the month of March.









Monthly Record Temperature and Rainfall Data

There were a total of nine new records were set throughout the month of March across SE TX primary climate sites.

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
City of Galveston	3/01	High Min Temp	68°	67° in 2012
City of Galveston	3/04	High Min Temp	69°	69° in 1882
City of Galveston	3/05	High Max Temp	80°	77° in 1880
City of Galveston	3/11	High Max Temp	78°	Tied in 2006
City of College Station	3/16	High Max Temp	85°	84° in 1945
City of Galveston	3/18	High Max Temp	81°	80° in 1972
City of Galveston	3/19	High Max Temp	89°	80° in 1954
City of Houston	3/27	High Min Temp	73°	72° in 1975
City of College Station	3/28	Max Rainfall Total	4.52"	2.87" in 2006

Note: This is also the wettest calendar year day for the month of March. The Previous wettest day during March was 4.20" set on March 27th in 1980.





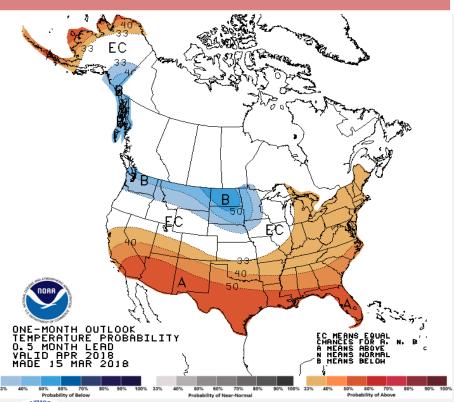
April Outlook

The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) calls for an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures and normal to slightly below normal precipitation for the month of April.

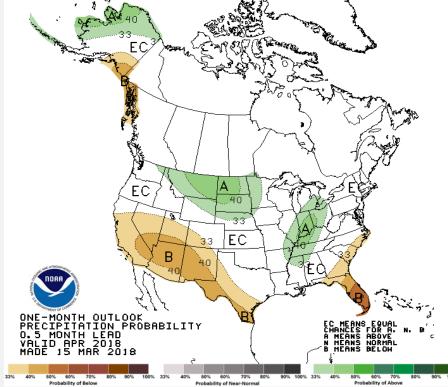
Site	Average Temp(°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Galveston	70.1	75.9	64.4
Houston Hobby	69.8	78.8	60.9
City of Houston	69.5	79.6	59.4
College Station	68.5	78.9	58.1

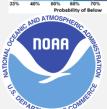
Site	Normal Monthly Precipitation (in.)
Galveston (GLS)	3.05
Houston Hobby (HOU)	3.25
City of Houston (IAH)	3.31
College Station (CLL)	2.66

Upcoming Temperature Outlook



Upcoming Precipitation Outlook







Climate Primary Site History

Galveston (GLS)

Records for Galveston are from observations at the following locations: 67-69 Strand (April 1, 1871 - Aug 31, 1874); 23rd and the Strand (Sep 1, 1874 - July 29, 1878), 1.75 miles WSW of the previous location; the Custom House at Bath Street and the Strand (July 30, 1878 - May 8, 1882); Colorado and Sante Fe Railroad Building at 25th and the Strand (May 9, 1882 - March 14, 1883); back to the Custom House which later became the Cotton Exchange Building (March 15, 1883 - June 24, 1898), about a 1/3 of a mile E of the previous Custom House location; The Levy Building at 2223 Market Street (June 25, 1898 - Nov 26, 1900); the Trust Building at Tremont and Post Office Streets (Nov 27, 1900 - June 24, 1946), one-quarter mile south of the Levy Building; the U.S. Post Office Building at 601 Rosenberg (June 25, 1946 - 1994); Scholes Field (January 1995 to present).

Houston Hobby (HOU)

Records are based upon observations beginning in August 1931.

City of Houston (IAH)

Records for the City of Houston are from observations at the following locations: Cotton Station from July 1881 through September 1909, Stewart Building at Preston and Fannin from September 1909 through February 1926, Shell Building at Texas and Fannin from March 1926 through August 1938, Federal Building at Franklin and Fannin from August 1938 through May 1969, Intercontinental Airport from June 1969 to the present.

College Station (CLL)

Records from 1893 through July 1951 are based on observations taken at the Texas Agriculture Experiment COOP Station main farm located 6 miles southwest of College Station. Records from August 1951 through the present are based on observations taken at Easterwood field. Normal temperatures are calculated from \$\\ 981\$ to 2000 period.