Rains returned to Southeast Texas during the first half of the month with nary a drop of rain falling during the second half of October. Rainfall across Southeast Texas was generally 2 to 3 inches below the 30 year normals. For the fifth consecutive month, rainfall across Southeast Texas was below normal. Drought conditions (Figure 3) had begun to expand across the southwest with parts of Jackson County classified in severe drought. Areas southwest of a Brenham to Richmond to Freeport line have been considerably drier than communities to the north and several locations are suffering annual rainfall deficits greater than 15” (Figure 1).

Strong thunderstorms rolled through the region on October 6th. The storms brought locally heavy rain, high winds and small hail to the area. Trees were uprooted across parts of Harris County and minor flooding was reported near Nassau Bay and Pasadena.
Temperatures were generally 1 to 2 degrees warmer than the 30 year normals (Figure 2) but only the City of Galveston established new daily high temperature records during the month. Galveston tied a record high on the 12th with a temperature of 86 degrees and established a new high temperature record on the 13th with a high temperature of 87 degrees.

**Figure 2: Temperature departure from 1981-2010 normals** (http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps/)
Figure 3: Drought Monitor for November 4th (http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/)