



# A Weather-Ready Nation

## HAPA Project Report

Volume 3, Issue 2, October 27, 2016

### Disclaimer

This is an EXPERIMENTAL project report based on the Hovmoller Analysis and Prognostics Approach (HAPA) conducted at the WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge Forecast Office (WFO LIX). This report is a means of bringing situational awareness to large scale events and potential impacts that may require decision support or emergency response activities in the foreseeable future. This project is NOT a long range forecast product for day-to-day conditions. HAPA is an interpretative method of integrating established numerical model guidance, climatological and earth systems monitoring and subject matter expertise from various sources to provide an outlook to potential weather hazards in the 8 to 60 day range. The intended audience of this report is media, NWS partners, stakeholders, and the general public. **Users must refer to the latest official NWS forecasts and outlooks for any decision-making activities.**



WFO New Orleans/Baton Rouge, LA

## Drought Conditions developing rapidly across the Southeast United States

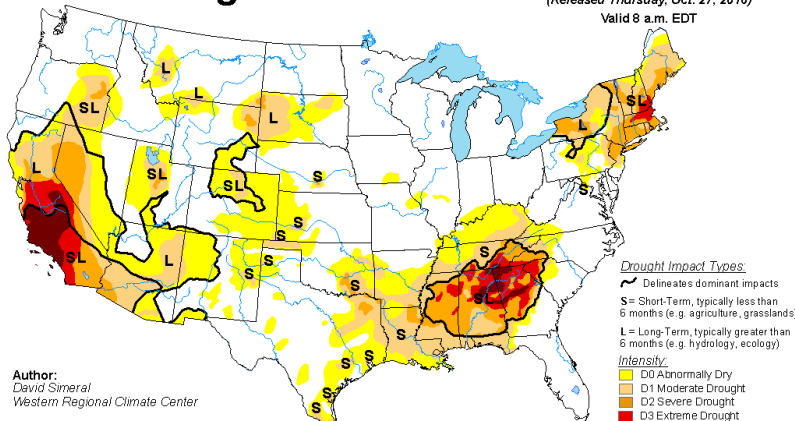
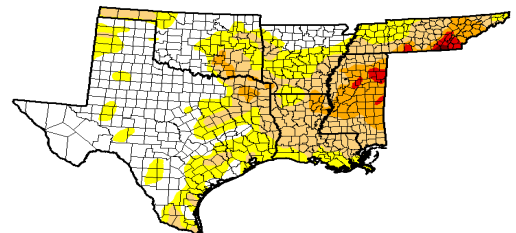
One may ask, after all of the historic rain that fell across the North-shore area of southeast Louisiana back in March, followed by historic rainfall and extensive flooding over the western Florida Parishes and southwest Mississippi, how can we possibly be in a developing drought situation so soon? That is the nature of rainfall in the Gulf South. Much of the high rainfall events went into runoff that drain into the tidal lakes rather quickly. The fact that the rain events fell while trees were in bloom or in full foliage also went into depleting ground water surpluses once the dry pattern set in. The latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows expansion of ongoing severe drought conditions spreading westward from Georgia and northern Alabama. It is quite possible deteriorating conditions could reach the Gulf Coast in time. The latest local analysis and assessment is for continued drier than normal rainfall heading into winter, driven primarily by La Nina developing in the Pacific Ocean. Historically, a La Nina episode has been typically drier and warmer than normal in the winter months. Burn bans are being placed in some jurisdictions do to dry fuels. Some navigation impacts on area rivers may come into play due to low flows should the dry conditions come to fruition as anticipated.

### U.S. Drought Monitor

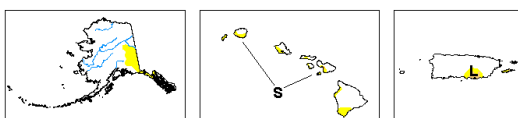
October 25, 2016

(Released Thursday, Oct. 27, 2016)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	42.23	57.77	33.10	9.48	1.45	0.14
Last Week	45.73	54.27	24.27	6.53	1.34	0.14
3 Months Ago	55.49	44.51	11.56	2.87	0.36	0.00
Start of Calendar Year	97.72	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year	76.89	23.11	6.74	1.89	0.28	0.11
One Year Ago	49.34	50.66	23.74	5.51	0.00	0.00

## Outlooks and dates for consideration

**Nov 6 [10 days out]:** Some indication of a weak system may pass through the region with some limited weather impacts expected.

**Nov 8 [12 days out]:** Election Day looks fine for the Gulf Coast states except possibly interior Texas, where some storminess be taking place to affect some precincts. Other places of concern would be the Northeast and Ohio Valley.

**Nov 9-10 [13-14 days out]:** The system in Texas on Election Day moves through the Gulf States for some rain chance and possibly spotty severe weather potential, but this may be the best and only chance at beneficial rainfall any time soon.

**Nov 19 [23 days out]:** There is a distant indication of a system that may bring some weather to the Gulf States on or around this day.

**Nov 24 [28 days out]:** Thanksgiving Day still looks uneventful for the Gulf States, but may have some travel impacts in the Northeast on the weekend return days. This will be monitored closely.

**Nov 27 [31 days out]:** Some severe weather impacts possible from a system that will likely move out the desert southwest.

## November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

A more detailed, technical explanation of these outlooks are available upon request to the e-mail address below.

### Contact Information

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## A focus on Election Day and Thanksgiving Weekend

While no events are on the calendar for this report, two particular periods of interest on a national scale does prompt some attention. The national Election Day on November 8th (12 days out) is being monitored as heightened security presence is often associated with elections. Thanksgiving Weekend is typically one of the most heavily traveled holidays, particularly for air travel. This year, some weather impact potential is noted in the upper Midwest and Northeast States that may affect some voter turnout on Election Day. Portions of Texas may also have some storminess on Election Tuesday. Thanksgiving Day weekend also shows some potential for weather impacts in the desert Southwest and possibly the north tier of the Plains States and upper Midwest.

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**Next Update: November 12, 2016**