Drought Information Statement for North Louisiana, East Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and Extreme Southeast Oklahoma

Valid September 30, 2023

Issued By: NWS Shreveport

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- This product will be updated October 31, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/shv/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
Extreme and Severe Drought Continues to Plague East Texas and North Louisiana

Drought intensity and Extent
- D4 (Exceptional Drought): Portions of Central Louisiana
- D3 (Extreme Drought): Much of Lower East Texas (South of I-20) and North-central Louisiana
- D2 (Severe Drought): Much of East Texas and North Louisiana (along and north of I-20)
- D1 (Moderate Drought): Portions of extreme Northeast Texas, McCurtain County Oklahoma, and Southwest Arkansas
- D0: (Abnormally Dry): Much of Southwest Arkansas

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am CDT September 26th. Issued on: September 28th
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

12 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.

- Flash drought conditions rapidly intensified across much of the region since early July.
- Portions of East Texas and North Louisiana have experienced a 4 category degradation (from no drought/abnormally dry (D0) to Extreme/Exceptional (D3/D4) Drought in the last few months.

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 12-week change map valid 7am CDT September 26th.
Near to above normal rain (on the left image) has fallen in September across portions of Deep East TX as well as in a northwest to southeast corridor from Southeast OK into much of Southwest AR into extreme Northwest LA. Below normal rain has been observed elsewhere across extreme Northeast TX and much of North LA.

September monthly rainfall totals of 4-6+ inches (on the right image) have been observed across portions of Deep East TX, Southeast OK, Southwest AR, and extreme Northeast TX.

Generated 9/30/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers
Imagery from the High Plains Regional Climate Center.
After one of the hottest summers on record, September continued the trend of above normal temperatures, with readings 2-4° above normal especially over East TX and North LA.

Shreveport, LA recorded 6 days of triple digit temperatures, while Tyler, TX recorded 5 days, and Lufkin, TX recorded 4 days.

September average temperatures ranked in the Top 10 warmest Septembers on record across East TX and Northwest LA.
Summary of Impacts

Hydrologic Impacts
- Numerous creeks, streams, and bayous that normally hold water year-round across East TX and North LA are very low or completely dry. Area lakes and reservoirs remain near or slightly below normal pool stage.

Agricultural Impacts
- Area pastures have burned up, with most producers getting one or NO cutting of hay this summer. Supplemental feeding of cattle began back in mid-summer across North LA and East TX. Stock ponds are very low or completely dry across North LA and East TX. Many producers have been unable to prep for fall planting.

Fire Hazard Impacts
- A high fire danger remains across much of North LA and portions of East TX given the dry to critically dry fuels in place. These drought stressed fuels remain conducive for fire initiation and spread.

Other Impacts
- In addition to vegetation, numerous trees have died or lost significant foliage due to inadequate deep soil moisture.

Mitigation Actions
- Smaller communities have enacted water restrictions due to excessive use or lower than normal well/aquifer levels. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains much below normal across East TX and North Louisiana near and south of I-20.

- Near normal soil moisture exists elsewhere across Northeast TX and Southwest AR, with above normal soil moisture present across Southeast OK.

Imagery Above: Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile for September 28th from the Climate Prediction Center
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A slow moving upper level disturbance will result in widespread welcome rains across much of TX, OK, Western AR, and possibly North LA.

- Rainfall amounts of 1-2+ inches are possible Wednesday, October 4th through late Friday, October 6th, especially over East TX, Southeast OK, and Western AR.

- While these rains won’t end the drought conditions in place, they should help to ease the very dry conditions.
Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/).  

- Unfortunately, higher than normal probabilities exist for our region to see above normal temperatures (on average) during October. 

- There is no skill level for determining whether we will see above normal, near normal, or below normal rainfall during October across our region.

Left Image - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook
Right Image - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook
Valid October 2023
Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)

- Drought conditions are expected to persist throughout October across East TX, North LA, and portions of Southwest AR.

- Some improvement to the drought is anticipated across portions of Southeast OK and at least the western sections of East TX during the month.

Links to the latest:
- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 2023
Released September 30, 2023

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Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Released September 30, 2023 - Valid through October 2023

https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd