

SEASONAL OUTLOOK

Eastern Area



Issued: January 6, 2009

Valid for: Jan-Apr 2009

Weather Discussion

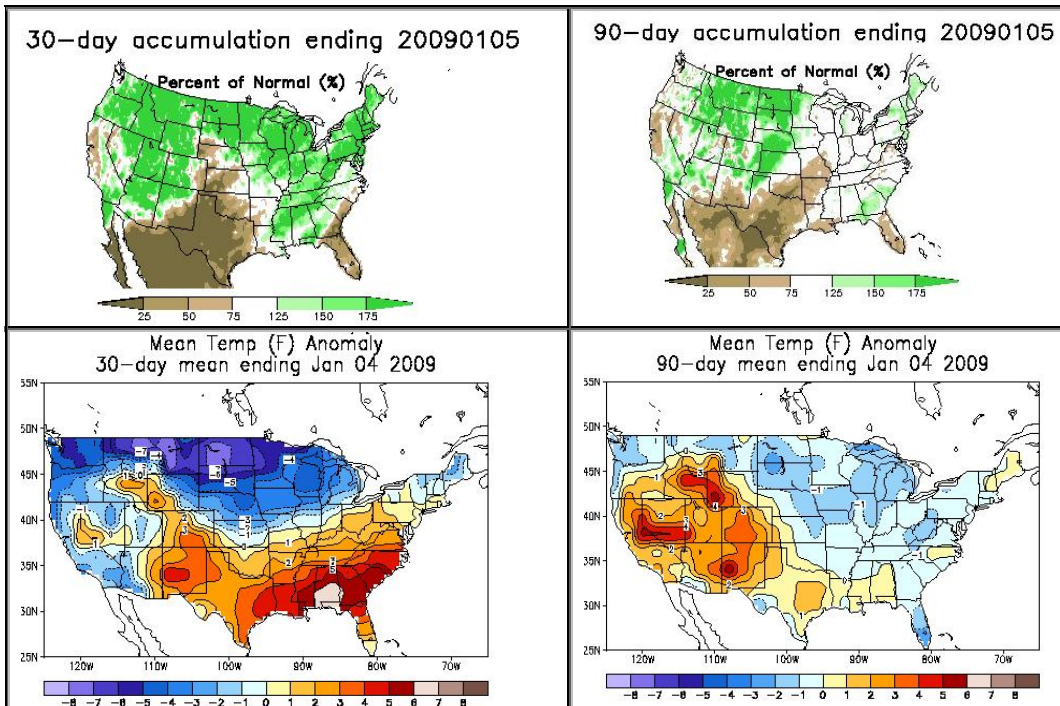
So far this winter, precipitation has been near or above normal across much of the Eastern Area. 30 day accumulated precipitation anomalies through early January 2009 indicated above normal amounts occurred across the majority of the Eastern Area. 90 day accumulated amounts showed pockets of below normal amounts across the north central Great Lakes and parts of the Mid-Atlantic states. The most widespread negative precipitation anomalies were indicated across the southwestern Big Rivers.

90 Day mean temperatures ending in early January 2009 were at or below normal across much of the eastern U.S. 30 day temperature anomalies indicated positive anomalies across the southern tier with below normal temperatures across the north.

30 and 90 day forecasts at the beginning of 2009 indicate a trend towards above normal temperatures across the southern tier of the Eastern Area with above normal precipitation across the southern Big Rivers eastward into the southeastern Mid-Atlantic States.

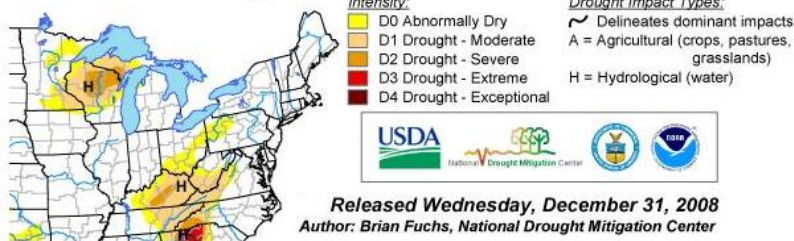
Summary

- Below normal temperatures and near to above normal precipitation occurred through first part of the 2008-09 Winter.
- Drought conditions across parts of the southern Mid-Atlantic States should continue to improve through the rest of the winter months.
- Most areas should see normal significant fire potential across the Eastern Area through the rest of the winter and into the spring months of 2009. However, significant fire potential may develop across the north central Great Lakes and southwest Big Rivers if forecast near to above normal precipitation amounts do not occur.

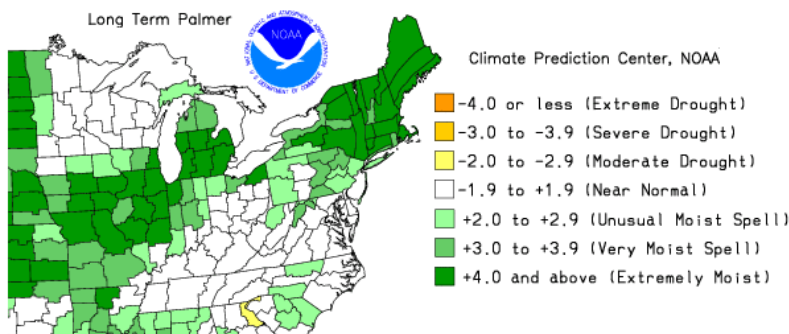


U.S. Drought Monitor December 30, 2008

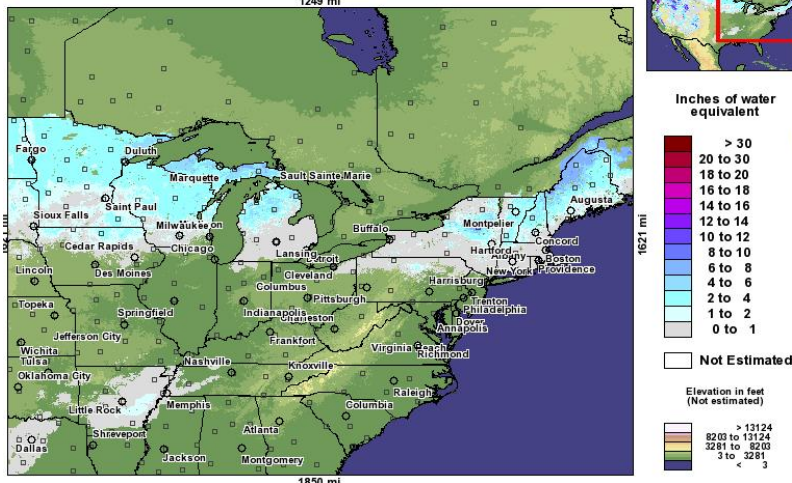
Valid 8 a.m. EST



Drought Severity Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending JAN 3, 2009



Modeled Snow Water Equivalent (Hourly) for 2009 January 6, 6:00 Z




Fuels and Drought

Fuel moistures leading into the Spring 2009 Fire Season are expected to be near or above near normal levels across the majority of the Eastern Area. The exceptions may be the southwestern Big Rivers and north central Great Lakes where long to medium drought conditions are in place.

Above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation is forecast across the southern tier of the Eastern Area into the early spring of 2009. This should lead to convective precipitation events which should help alleviate the drought conditions across the southwestern Big Rivers and allow fuel moisture levels to climb to normal levels.

The drought conditions across the north central Great Lakes are also forecast to improve through the rest of the winter months. Snowfall and snow depths will need to be monitored across this area leading into the spring fire season of 2009. The onset of the spring season across the northern tier is dependent on the snow depths in place as well as late winter temperature trends. As of early January 2009 these were more uncertain across the northern tier states of the Eastern Area.



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