



MNICS TASKFORCE PLANNING CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, October 6, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

DNR NW: Arthur and Marshal
DNR NE: Angie Adams
DNR Central: Jim Wilson
DNR SW: Jake Froyum
DNR St. Paul: Mike Warnke
Aviation: Anna Hines
US Forest Service: Brian
DOI - US Wildfire Service (BIA): Cory Berg
DOI - US Wildfire Service (FWS): Mike Hill
DOI - US Wildfire Service (NPS):
Homeland Security: Jennifer Olson
Conservation Corp Minnesota-Iowa: Dorian
National Weather Service: Mike Griesinger
MN Pollution Control: Ryan Lueck
Predictive Services: Travis Verdegan

NWS Weather Briefing:

Today-Sunday is expected to be the peak of the fall fire season. It will also be the peak of the fall harvest with the potential for fire activity in agricultural heavy areas.



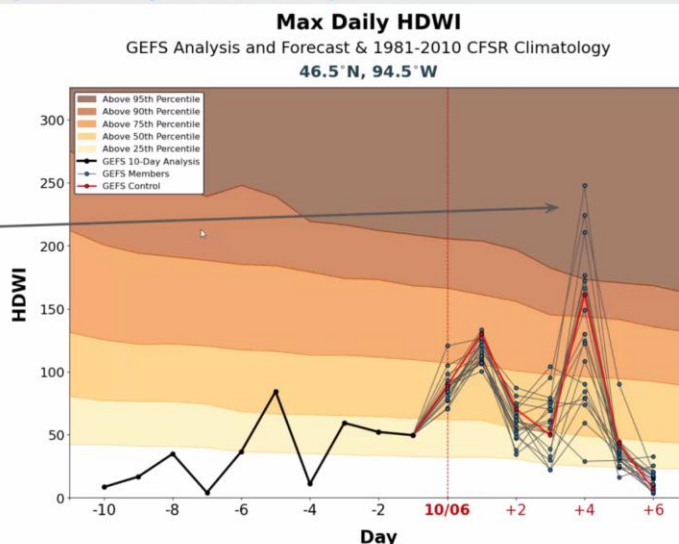
MNICS Planning Call Weather Brief

October 6, 2026
8:26 AM CDT

Some fire weather concerns anticipated through the next 7 days

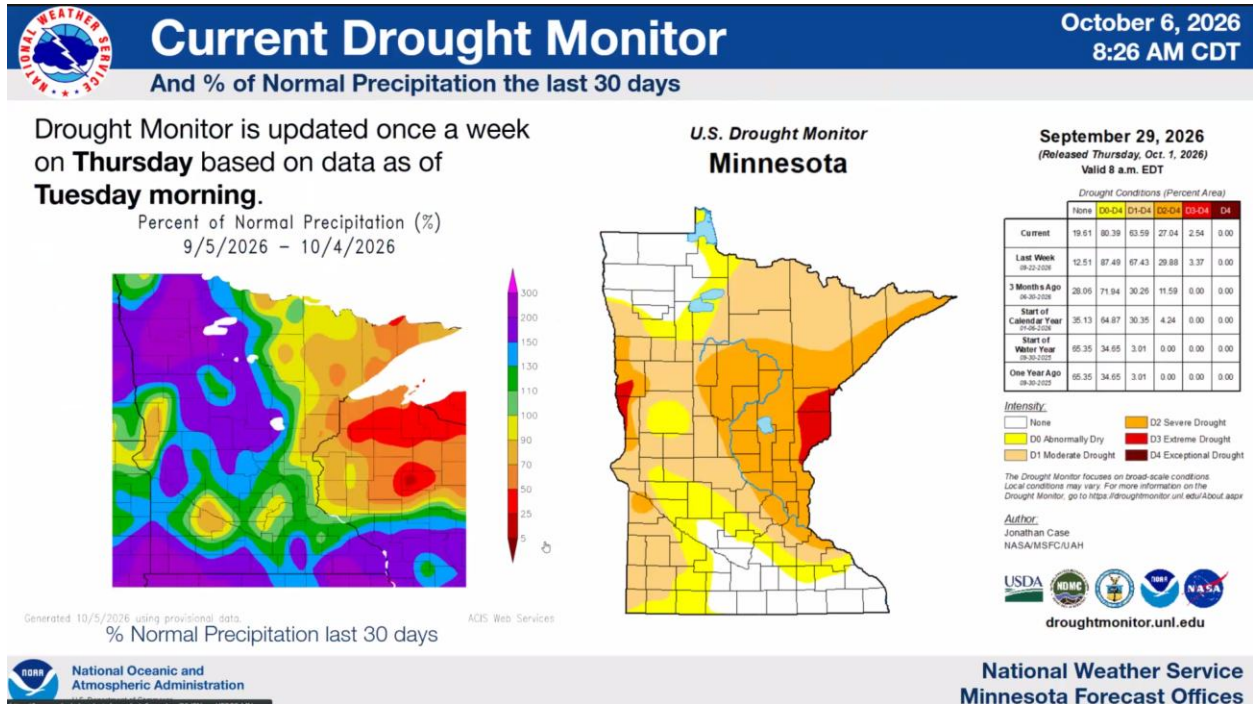
Key Messages

- Fall fire weather season likely peaks Today through Sunday.
- Today/Wednesday/Thursday - main concern is low humidity.
- Friday/Saturday/Sunday - main concern is stronger winds.
- Be on the lookout for harvest fires this week in heavy agriculture areas.
- Widespread rain early next week, stronger cool-down late next week.



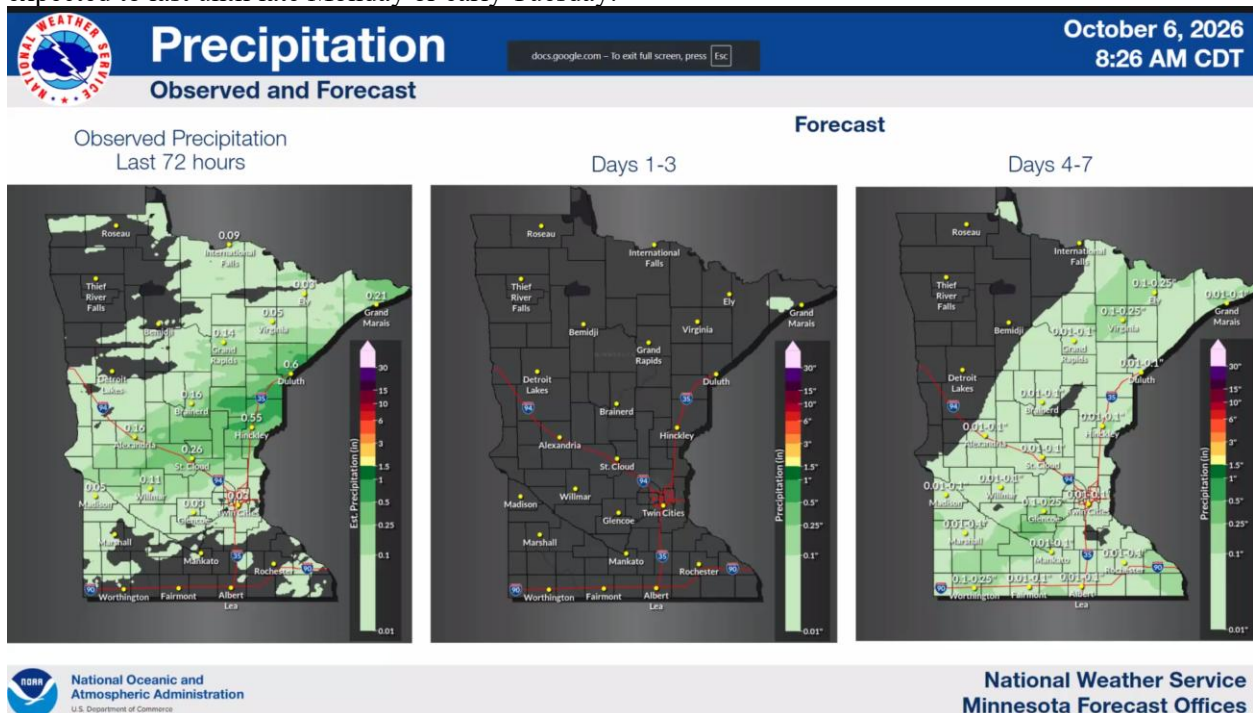
Drought Monitor:

The drought is slowly improving with the above normal precipitation that was received this September.



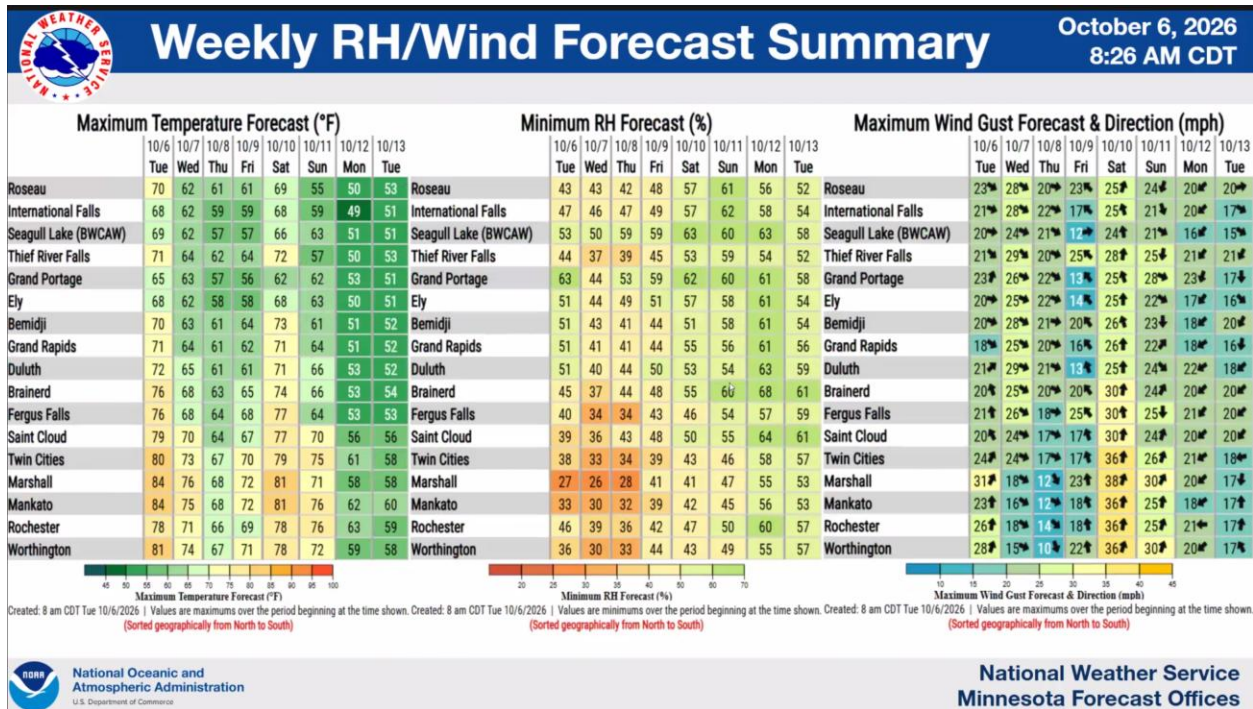
Precipitation

Saturday was the last heavy precipitation day observed. We have been in a drying pattern since, which is expected to last until late Monday or early Tuesday.



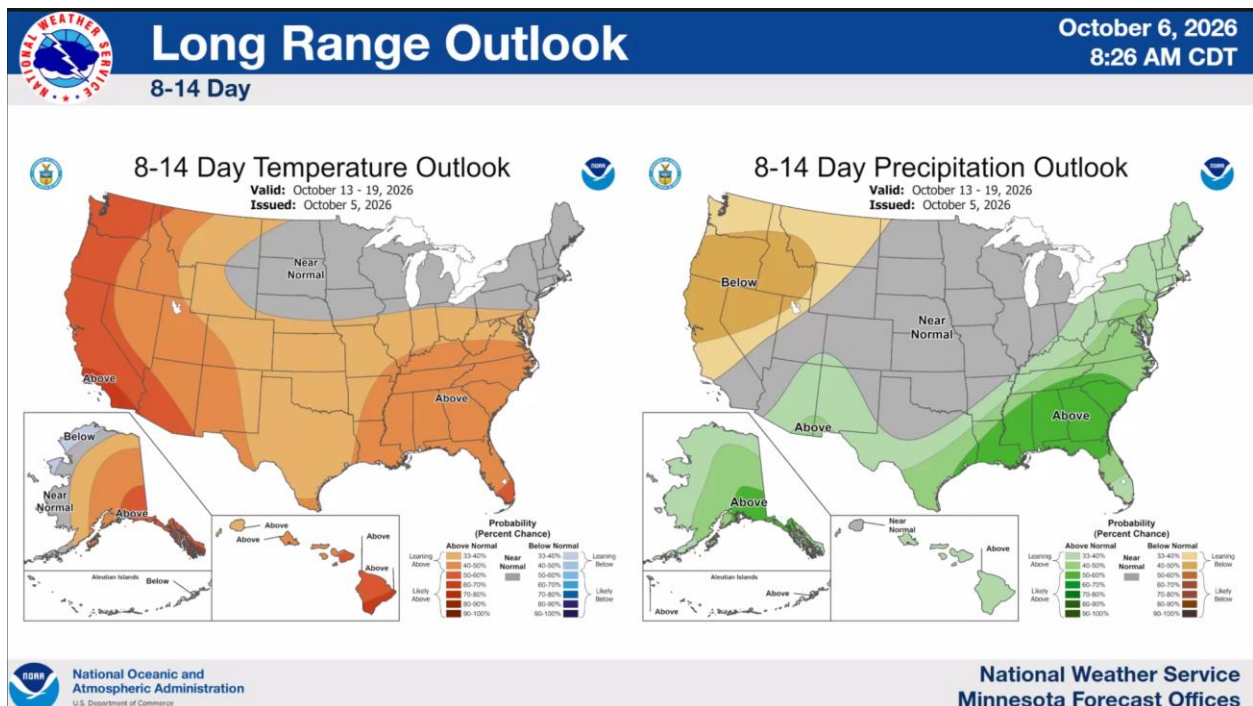
Weekly Temperature and Precipitation Summary

Today - Saturday has the potential for fall fire activity. The forecasted RH values and winds are on the conservative side. We could see RH values drop 10% and wind increase 10 mph.



Long-Range Outlook

Trending towards normal temperatures and precipitation.



MPCA

Air quality is expected to be good throughout the planning period. Winds on Saturday have the potential to bring blowing dust. Local wildfires may also impact localized air quality.

Predictive Services Update

Overview

Precip over the last planning period saw some heavy amounts in the NW to start and transitioned to a drier pattern with multiple drying days establishing over the state and isolated trace to moderate amounts appearing from day to day. Fire activity is shown as zero fires reported over the last planning period.

With a switch in the weather pattern and transition to fall fuels accelerating by the day fire activity has yet to respond to increasingly favorable conditions for greater fire potential. With clear sunny skies and favorable fire weather in the forecast this week it becomes increasingly more likely that we will see fire activity pick up and it could come on rapidly. All signs are pointing upward in the preparedness indices, and we may see long term indicator of fire potential make sustained run through the month of October.

CPC 6 – 10 and 8 – 14 Day Outlooks

CPC 6 – 10-day shows better chances for above normal temps and precip while the 8 – 14 day is showing normal chances for both that could indicate a short-term pattern change that transitions back to hot and dry to end the month

Drought Monitor

The latest drought monitor shows improvement over much of the western half of the state while some areas in the south saw some degradation.

NFDRS

Values including both BI – X and ERC – Y are showing upward trends across the board after spending most of September at low levels. The drivers behind both trends are different although both cases are relevant to assessing fire potential in the coming weeks.

CFFDRS

BUI values after a long period of declining and flat trends show sustained growth likely to occur over the next week that could push the values to levels that start showing back up in the fire behavior we may see in the coming weeks.

Situation Update and Planning Needs Summary

DNR NW: No fires reported, no additional needs.

DNR NE: No fires reported, no additional needs.

DNR Central: No fires reported, no additional needs.

DNR SW: No fires reported, no additional needs. RX burns are planned for today and

throughout the week.

FS: No fires reported on either forest. Planned RX pile burning is taking place on the Superior West Zone.

USWFS-BIA: No fires reported, no additional needs. RX is planned to take place on White Earth.

USWFS-FWS: No fires reported, no additional needs. RX burning is planned to take place later this week.

USWFS-NPS:

HSEM: No updates, no need.

CCMI: There are 2 crews available: 1 up north and 1 down south. Both crews will be on-call this week per Glesener.

AVIATION: There are 2 scoopers in Hibbing and 1 Helicopter in Brainerd, 2 Beavers in Ely and 2 Kodiaks in Grand Rapids. There have been no aircraft requests.

Current Preparedness Levels

Minnesota: PL 2

Eastern Area: PL 1

National: PL 2

Minnesota Statewide PL will stay at a PL 2

Planning Preparedness Level Determination with FDRAs

MN Interagency Guide for Determining Preparedness Level

Final Preparedness Level Determination

	Level I	Level II	Level III	Level IV	Level V
Statewide		II			
Arrowhead		II			
East Central Hardwoods		II			
North Central Woodlands		II			
Northern Peatlands		II			
Prairie Parklands		II			
Southeast Hardwoods		II			
Southwest Prairie			III		

Prepared By: Travis Verdegan

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Approved By: MNICS Taskforce

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Additional Resource Activations: No additional resource activations.

Restrictions/Regulations/Priorities: Burning restrictions and permits are being managed by the local forestry offices. All areas will be updating the restrictions and fire danger daily.

MNICS IMT on Rotation: Team A

MNCC Duty Officer: Anna Hines

Next MNICS Planning call: Tuesday, October 13th @ 0900.

Notes by: Jolene Soltis-Beighley, MNCC Intel