



MNICS CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES

Below are links to the DNR Fire Danger Indices Maps. Be sure to check daily for updates.

Link to Fire Danger Indices Maps, Jack Pine Model:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/maps/fdi_jackpine.html

Link to Fire Danger Indices Maps, Grass Model:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/maps/fdi_grass.html

Link to Fire Danger Indices Maps, Mature Conifer Model:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/maps/fdi_mature_conifer.html

Link to MN DNR Wildfire Information Center:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/wildfirereports_tools.html

Large Incidents that have a Team assigned will be updated at: <http://mnics.org/wpress/>

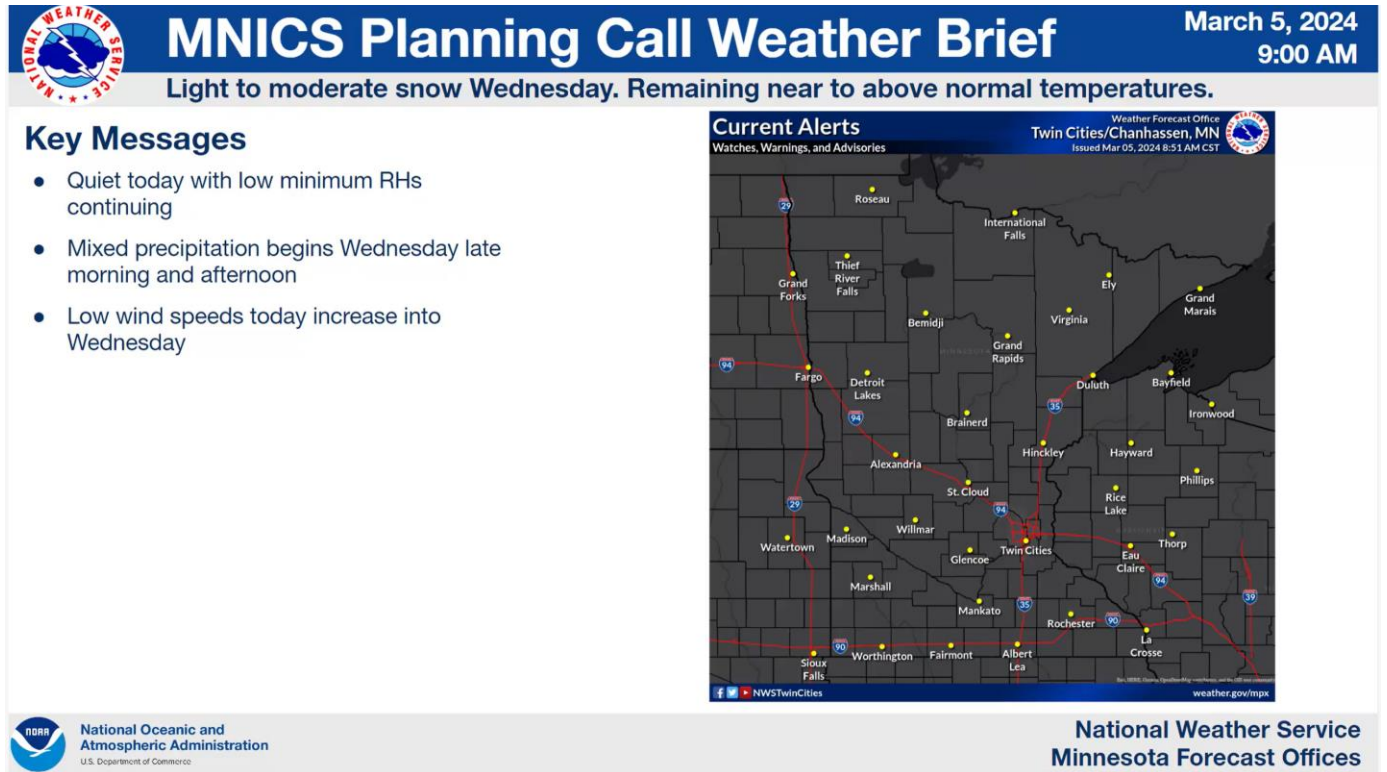
DATE: March 5, 2024

Attending: Northwest Region: Matt Boyer, Blair Olson
Northeast Region: Andy McGuire, Eric Otto
Central Region: Jim Wilson
SW Area: Jake Froyum
St. Paul DNR: Alex Gehrig
Aviation: Darren Neuman, Anna Hines
BIA: Cory Berg
USFS: Brian Jenkins
USFWS: Mike Hill
NPS: Greg Carlson
CCM: Inga Roen
HSEM: Jacob Beauregard, Kara Behr
National Weather Service: Nathan Lynum – NWS Duluth
MIFC: Ryan Kingsley, MNCC Aviation, MNCC Intelligence, MNCC Logistics, MNCC Operations, MNCC Public Information

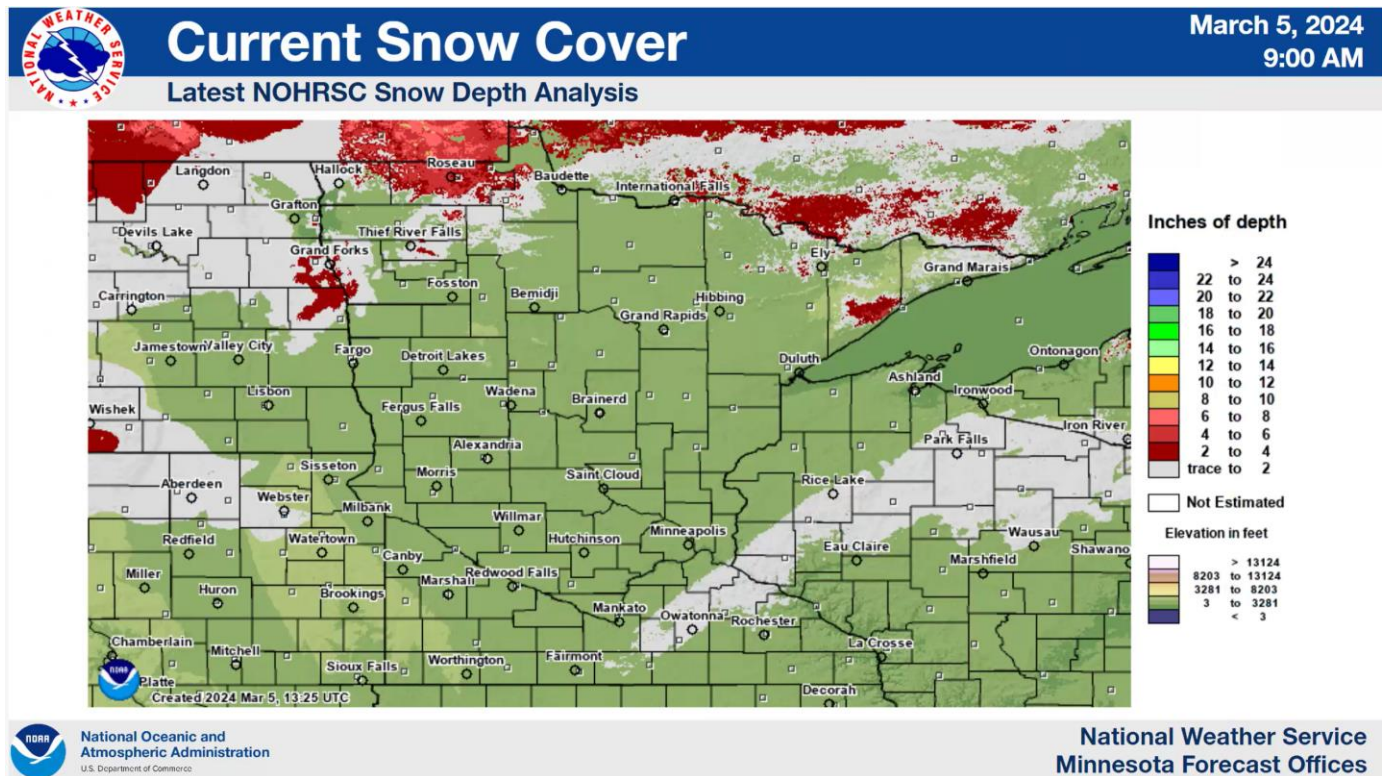
Large Incident Updates:

(Jake Froyum) MN3XS – Snake Trail Fire: There has been no growth since yesterday. The approximate size of the incident is 1,600 acres. The fire is 75% contained. Resources are on the fire again today. It is possible that the fire will be turned over to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife Division of Fish and Wildlife at the end of shift today. That decision will be reevaluated at the end of today's operational period.

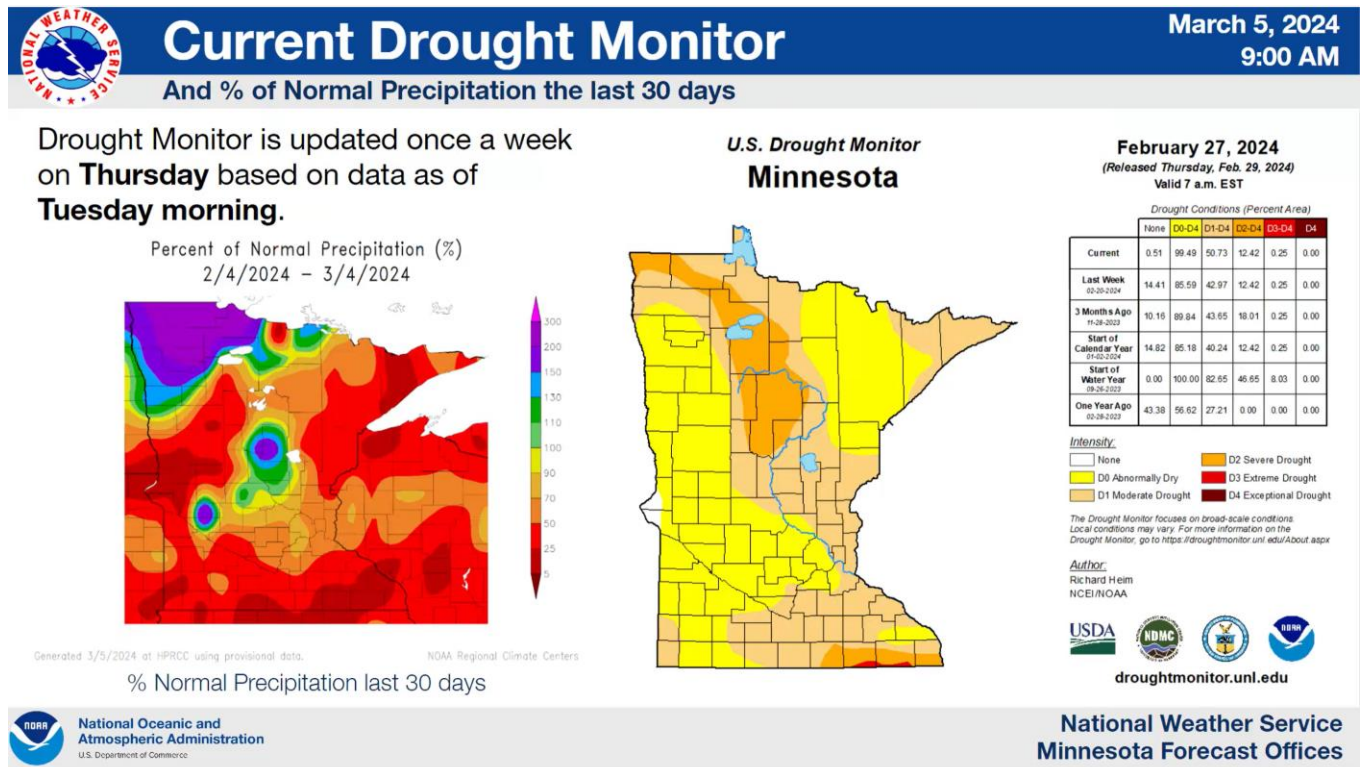
(Taylor Schenk) MN1GS – Doran WMA Fire: The approximate size of the incident is 2,040 acres. The incident is approaching 100% containment. Area resources continue to patrol and monitor the incident checking for hot spots.



There is trace amounts to 4" of snow cover left across the state.



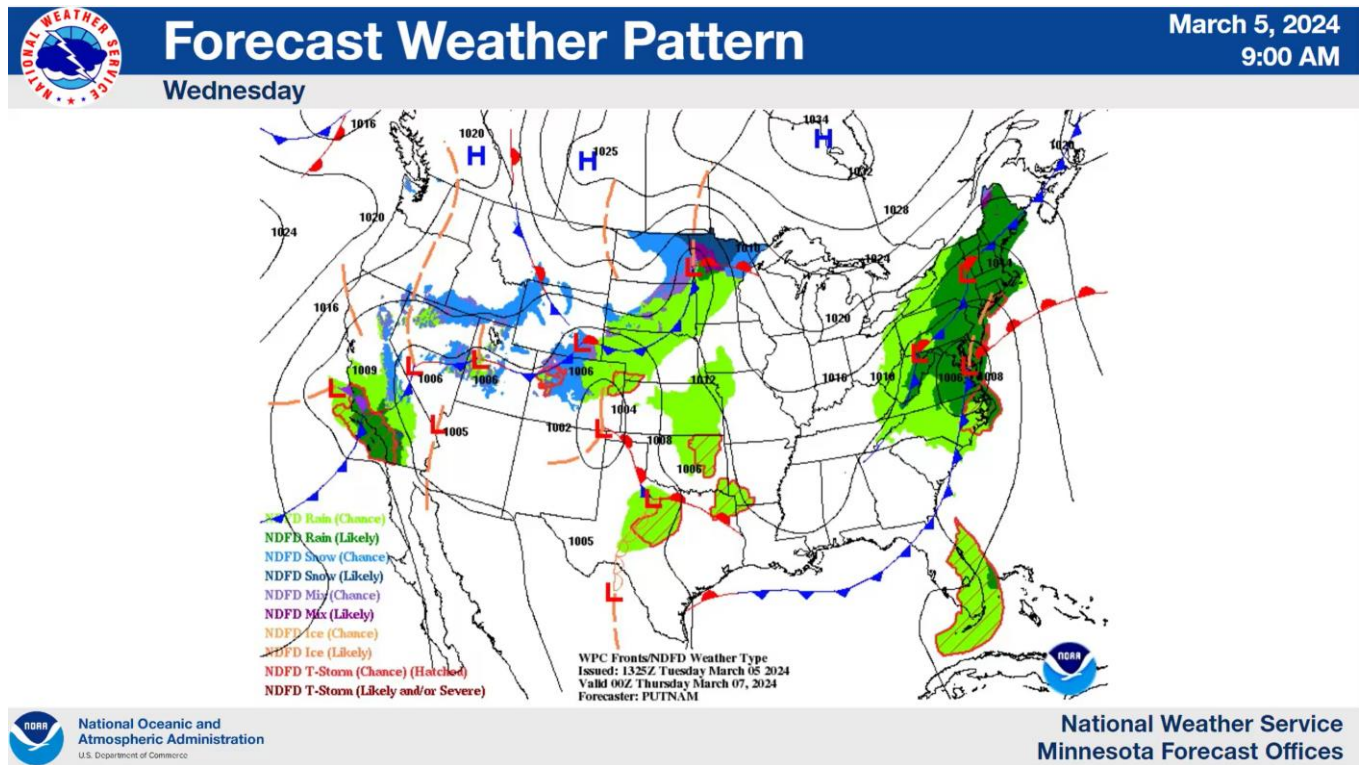
Widespread severe drought conditions continue to persist across the state with extreme drought showing up in the southeast portion of the state. The drought conditions are not likely to improve in the near future. The state as a whole is showing a 50% or greater precipitation deficit.



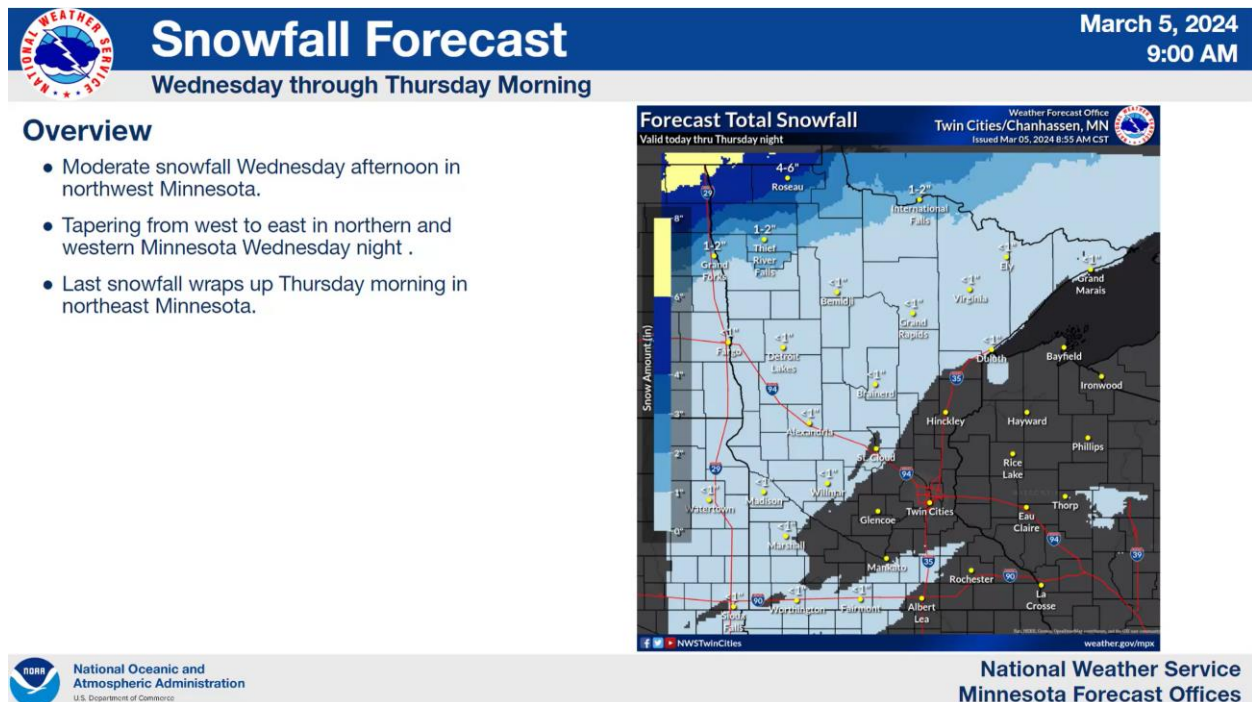
There has been a trace to 0.1 of an inch of precipitation observed. The southeast portion of the state is expected to see the greatest amounts of precipitation of a trace amount up to 0.1 of an inch.



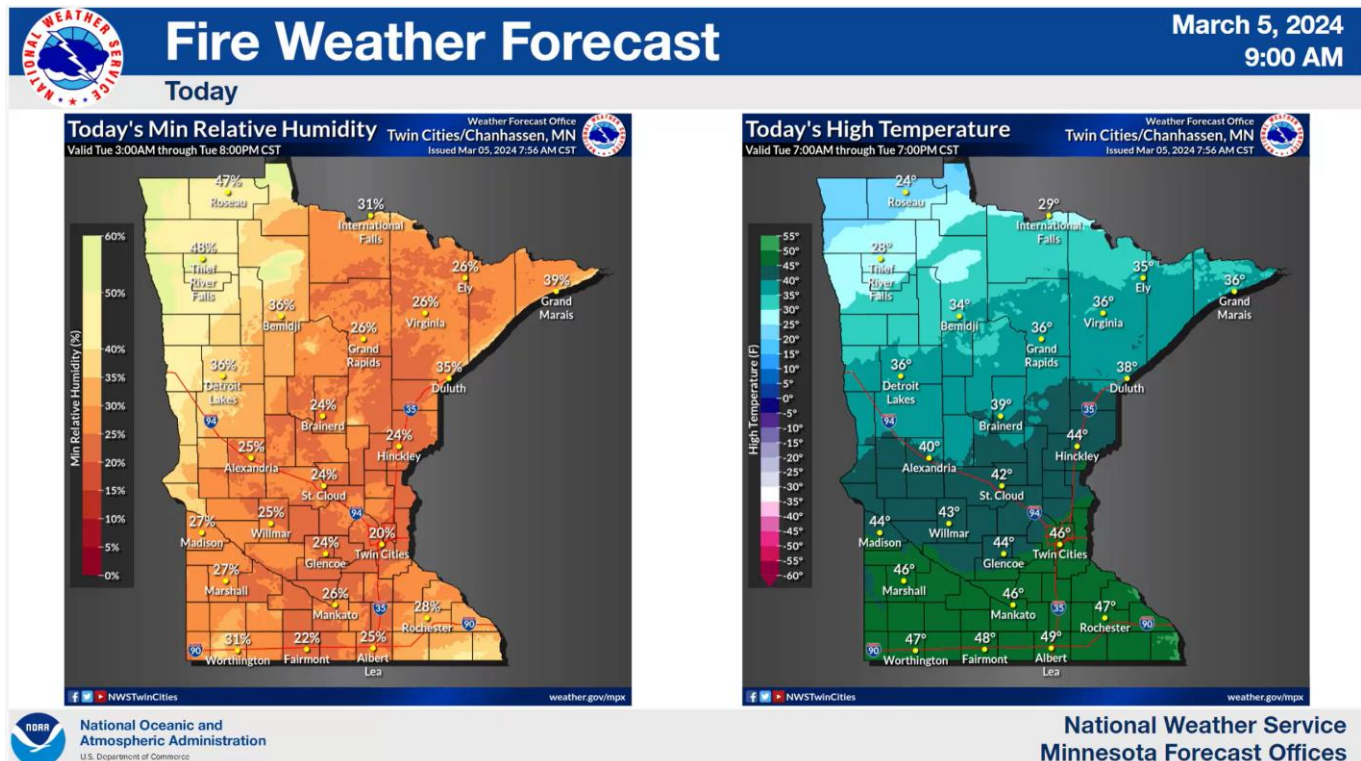
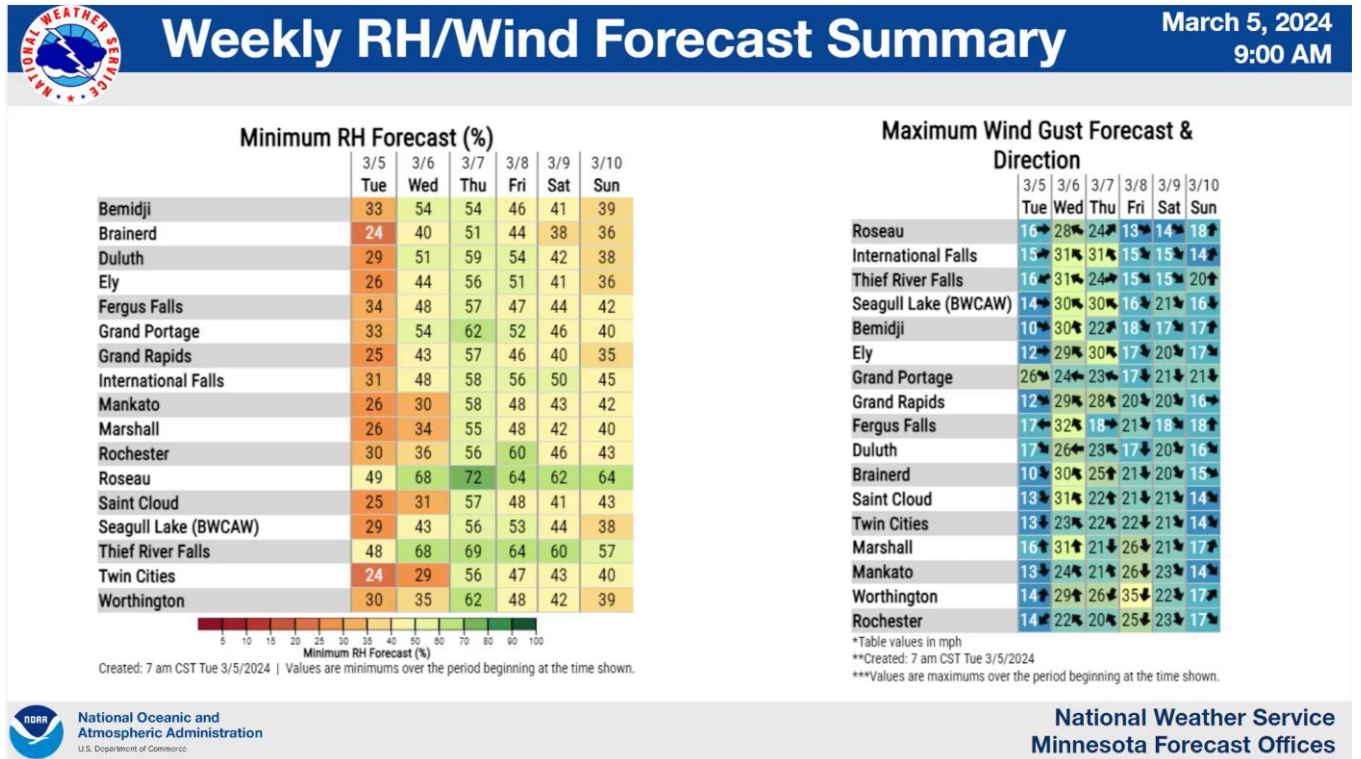
Wednesday is showing the most likely chance of a weather pattern setting up across the state. The snowfall that may hit the state will create the equivalent to 0.1 inches of rainfall.



1-2 inches of snowfall is expected near International falls. 4-6 inches of snowfall is expected in the furthest NW corner of the state. The rest of the state is expected to see flurries with some possibilities of up to one inch of snow possible.



Today RH values are concerning across the state, winds will remain minimal, and the temps will also remain cooler. Tomorrow is a day of concern with the southerly winds picking up, the RH values remaining low and the temperatures on the rise.





Today's Min Relative Humidity Twin Cities/Chanhassen, MN
 Valid Tue 3:00AM through Tue 8:00PM CST
 Issued Mar 05, 2024 7:56 AM CST

Min Relative Humidity (%)

60%
50%
40%
35%
30%
25%
20%
15%
10%
5%
0%

47%
Roseau

31%
International Falls

26%
Ely

39%
Grand Marais

26%
Virginia

26%
Grand Rapids

24%
Brainerd

24%
Hinkley

24%
St. Cloud

25%
Alexandria

25%
Willmar

27%
Marshall

31%
Worthington

22%
Fairmont

25%
Albert Lea

28%
Rochester

26%
Mankato

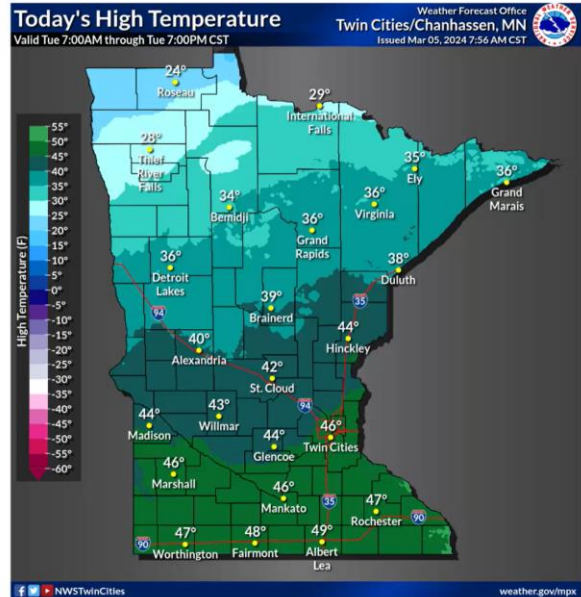
24%
Glencoe

20%
Twin Cities

27%
Madison

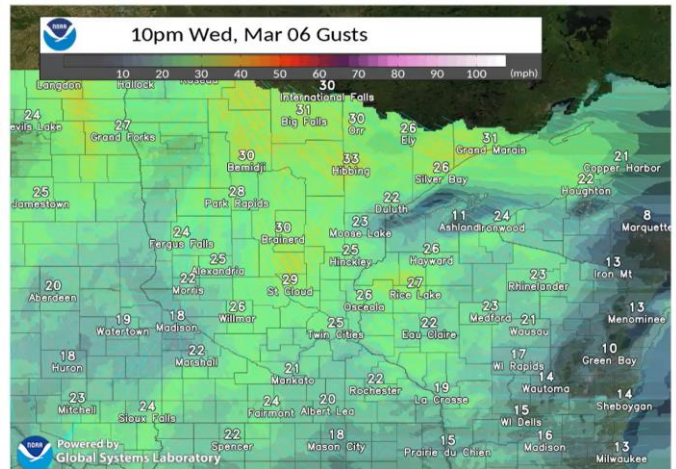
35%
Detroit Lakes

48%
Thief River Falls

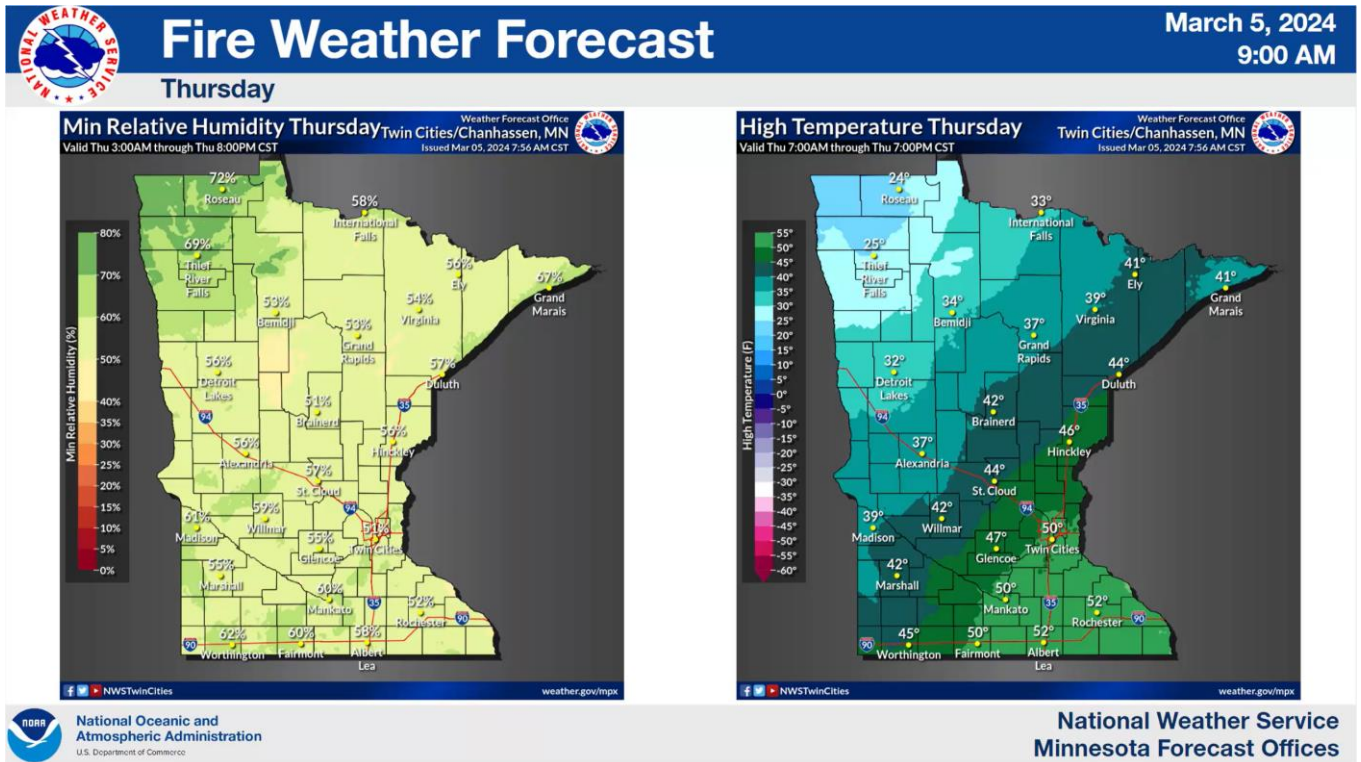


**National Weather Service
Minnesota Forecast Offices**

March 5, 2024
9:00 AM

[illegible]

**National Weather Service
Minnesota Forecast Offices**



Fire Environment Forecast (Travis Verdegan):

[FIRE BEHAVIOR FORECAST](#)

[Fire and Smoke Map \(airnow.gov\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Over the last week we've seen an exponential increase in fire activity both from an occurrence and acres burned perspective. This has correlated with increasing potential across the state as fuels continue to dry out under a mostly precipitation free scenario over parts of the state seeing the most fire activity.

With precipitation forecast over most of the state in the coming days and fire weather forecasts showing a decreasing trend in fire potential we may expect to see fire activity maintain over the state although the acceleration of activity we saw over the last week may flatten out some. Watch for increased wind and temps in the fire weather forecasts to bring about another upward trending level of activity in the coming week.

CPC 6 – 10 and 8 – 14 DAY OUTLOOKS

The CPC 6-10 day and 8-14 day outlooks both show indications of above normal temps. Precip potential may vary from drier in the shorter term to wetter in the longer term.

DROUGHT MONITOR

The latest drought monitor brought further degradation across the state with the entire state at least categorized by abnormally dry conditions and over 50% at moderate drought or above.

NFDRS

NFDRS values are not being calculated at this time. A recalc will be done as predictive services is able to catch up with station management in WIMS.

CFFDRS

CFFDRS values are being calculated and drought code start up values have been adjusted to reflect overwinter precipitation deficits.

Situation Update

(Since the last Planning Call)

Northwest Region: There have been 7 wildfires for 2,400 acres, with the majority of those acres being the Doran WMA in the Park Rapids Forestry Area. Warroad Forestry Area has continued to have their Duty Officer phone rolled to the region as they remain mainly snow covered. Resources from the Warroad Forestry Area are filling resource needs across the regions. Region is requesting the MR shop be placed on –call for additional staffing resource.

Northeast Region: There have been 6 wildfires for 32 acres. A request has been made to MNCC Aviation regarding getting seats to the Hibbing Airtanker Base to support the region. The areas within the region are working to help make people available to support the central regions request for additional engines. Region is requesting the MR shop be placed on-call for additional staffing resources.

Central Region: There have been 17 wildfires for 32 acres. There is a need for additional Type 6 engines to be staffed in the Sandstone Forestry Area. Region is requesting the MR shop and the CCM crews that are anticipated to become available on Friday to be placed on call.

SW Area: There have been 2 fires for approximately 1,600 acres, with the majority of those acres being the Snake Trail Fire. No additional needs.

USFS: No wildfires on either forest. Prescribed burning may be taking place on both forests as conditions allow.

BIA: There have been 2 wildfires, 1 fire on White Earth and 1 fire on Mille Lacs. Red Lake conducted a RX burn for 3,400 acres. No additional needs.

USFWS: There have been 2 wildfires on FWS lands. Minnesota Valley had a 50-acre fire and the Doran WMA burned onto FWS lands in Fergus Falls. No additional needs.

NPS: No wildfires, no additional needs.

HSEM: Providing Intel to jurisdictional EMS. The National Guard is in National Standdown due to an Aircraft Down Incident. Blackhawks are unavailable to respond currently.

CCMI: No crews are currently available. CCMI will be conducting WCTing on Thursday. Crews are anticipated to be available starting on Friday. Communication of the available crews will be sent to MNCC Center Manager and information will be passed on the MNDNR Central Region as they requested crews that become available.

Aircraft: There have been aircraft requests on 3 fires. Currently there is 1 AA and 2 SEATS available in Brainerd, there is a Type 3 Helicopter available in Cambridge. Two additional Helicopters will be added to the lineup: one in Williw River and one in Brainerd. Please refer to the Aircraft Status report for the most current aircraft availability: <https://mnics.org/wordpress/left-sidebar-menu/logistics-dispatch/aviation/>

Preparedness Levels:

Statewide: 2

Eastern Area: 2

National: 1

FDRA Models: East Central Hardwoods 3, Southeast Hardwoods 3, Southwest Prairies 3

Additional Resources List Activation:

MR Shops will be on-call in all 3 Regions. CCM crew will be on-call when available.

Regulations, Restrictions, Priorities:

Conversations regarding spring burning restrictions will continue across the state. Forestry areas will continue to manage their burning permits and restrictions by utilizing the electronic burning system at the local level.

MNICS IMT on Rotation: None

MNCC Duty Officer: Ryan Kingsley

MNCC DO Number: 218-322-2707

- 218-322-2738 **Center Manager – Ryan Kingsley**
- 218-327-4582 **Aviation –Anna Hines, ACM**
- 218-327-4175 **Operations – Ryan Johnson, ACM**
- 218-322-2700 **Logistics – Natasha Woodwick, ACM**
- 218-322-2745 **Intelligence –Jolene Soltis**
- 218-322-2739 **Information – Leanne Langeberg**

Next MNICS Conference Call: Tuesday, March 12th at 0900

For more information see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/index.html>

Notes by: Jolene Soltis