

# NIDIS

## Southeast US Drought Workshop



Rice, flour and other foodstuffs, distributed in the Federated States of Micronesia.  
FEMA/Marty Bahamonde



**FEMA**

April 29, 2008

# FEMA's Activities

- Hazards analysis
- Information Sharing
- Coordination with Federal Partners

*“FEMA coordinates the federal government’s role in preparing for, preventing, mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.”*



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# Hazard Assessment

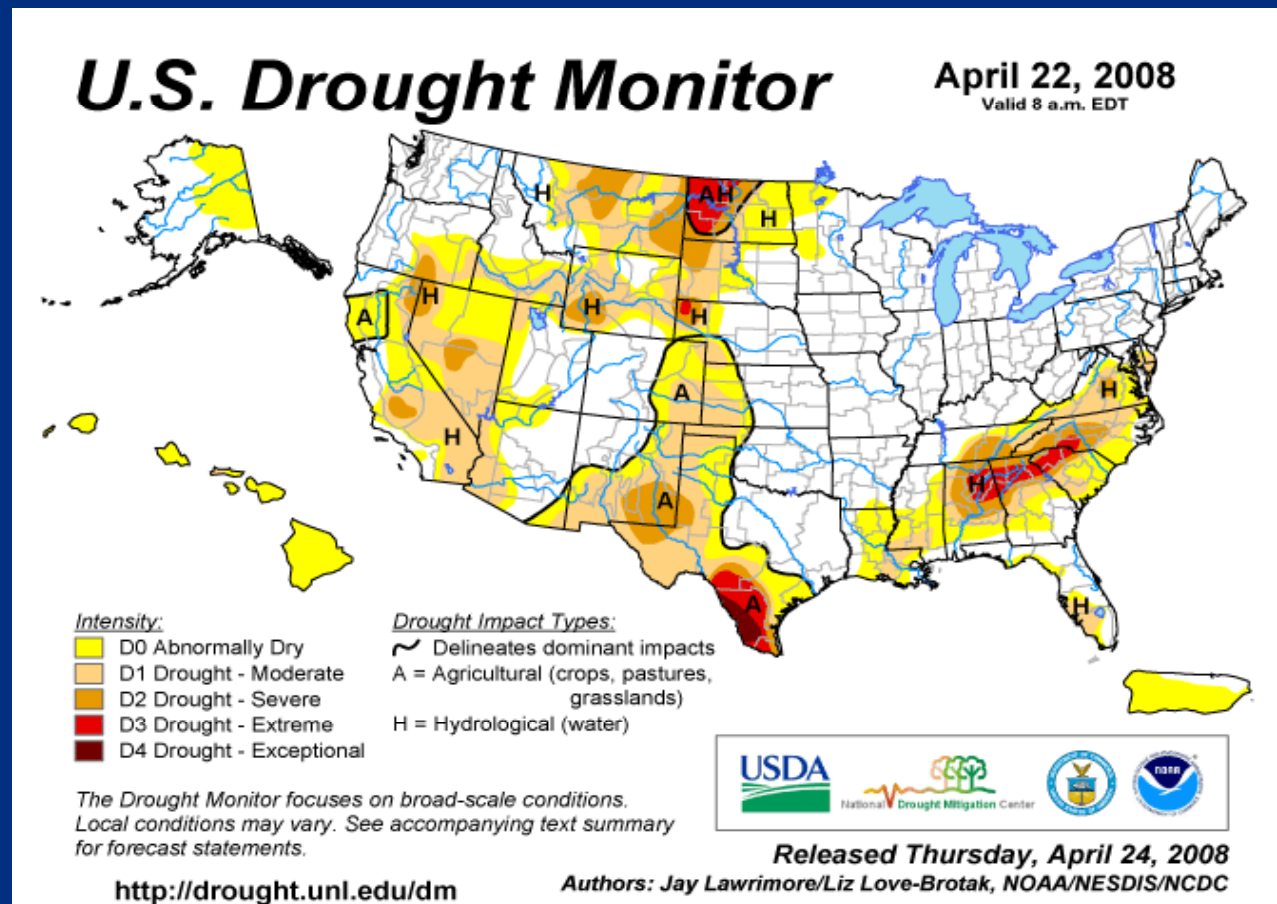
- Conducted by FEMA IV Response Operations Branch
  - Federal Regional Center (FRC) in Thomasville, GA
- Situational Awareness & Intelligence Gathering
  - Facilitate a rapid, current assessment of State drought situations
  - Monitor a variety of products to track drought conditions
  - Local media
  - Congressional liaison



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# Drought products

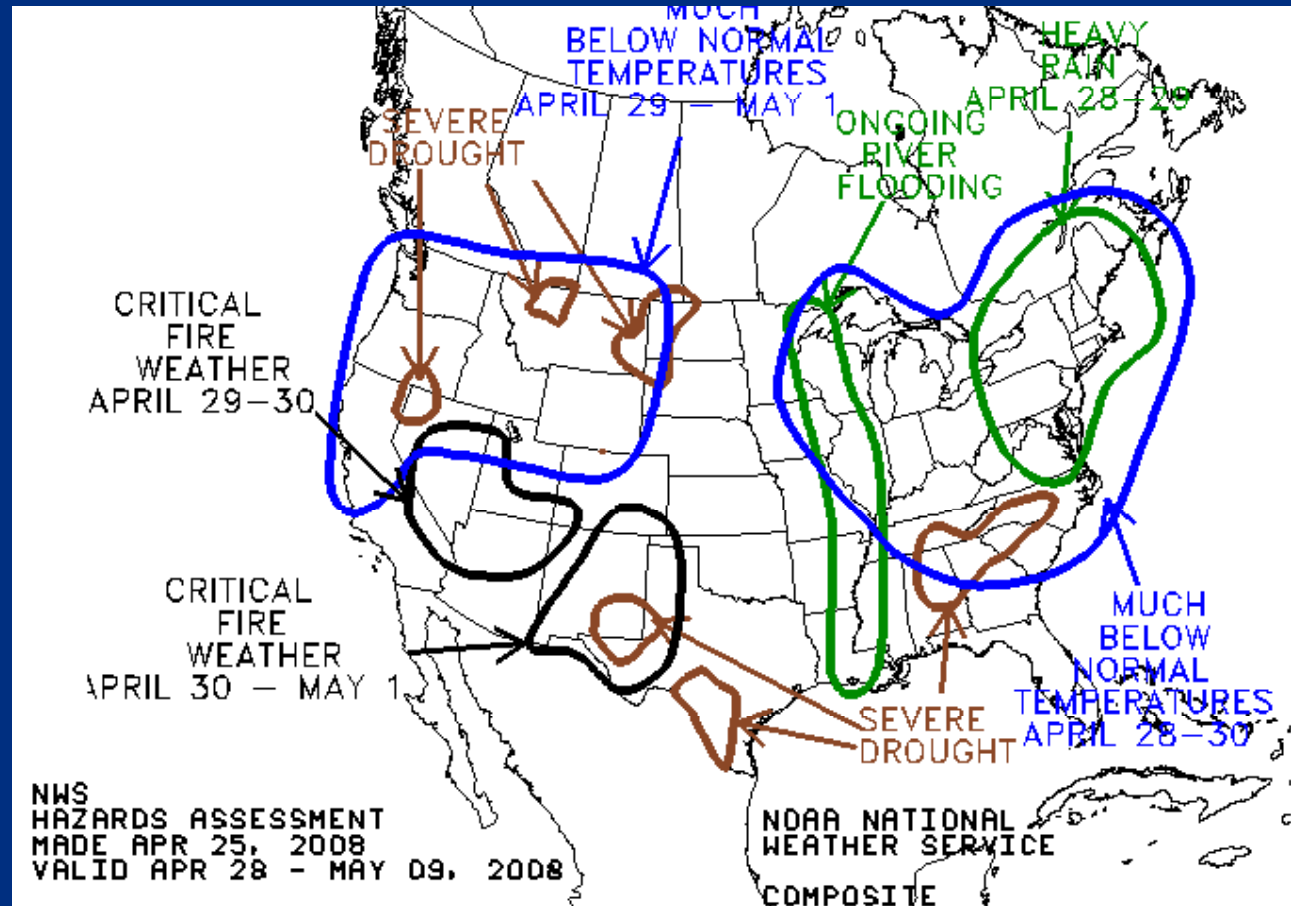
<http://www.drought.unl.edu/DM/monitor.html>



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# Drought products

[http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/threats.shtml](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/threats.shtml)



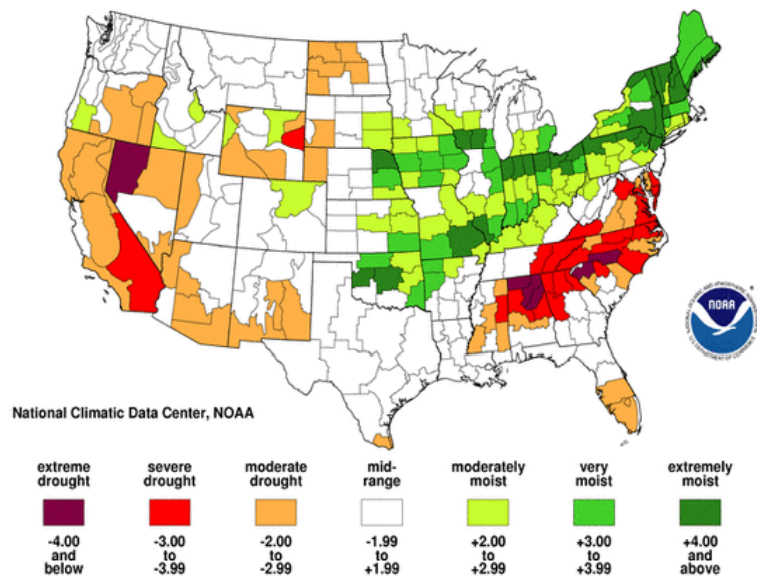
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# Drought products

<http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/prelim/drought/palmer.html>

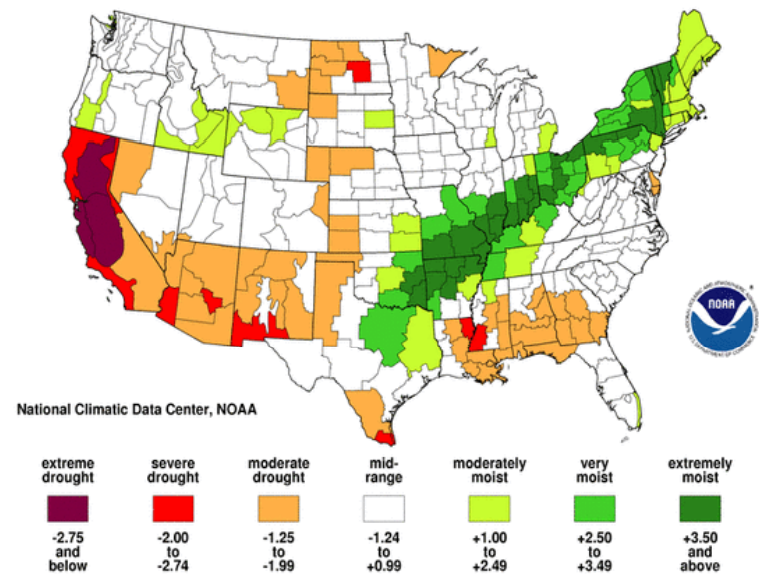
**Palmer Drought Index**  
Long-Term (Meteorological) Conditions

March 2008



**Palmer Z Index**  
Short-Term Conditions

March 2008



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# Information Sharing

- Daily situational reports
  - Highlight conditions in 2 states/day
- Weekly reports
  - Briefing to Department of Homeland Security Operations
  - Summary report to regional leadership and stakeholders
- Quarterly Regional Interagency Steering Committee meeting
  - Regional drought and the possibility of providing coordinated Federal assistance addressed for as long as the possibility of a drought emergency exists in any of the eight States.
  - Issues discussed with States and Emergency Support Function partners (HHS, USFS, DOT, Mass Care, etc....)
  - Private Sector representation invited as appropriate



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# Information Sharing

## Drought Situation

As the drought in the southeast continues, this section will highlight two Region IV states each day (Monday-Thursday) with a synopsis provided on Friday.

Much of the Southeast received little or no precipitation for the second week in a row and conditions deteriorated in parts of every state in the Southeast Region. An exception to this was an area of heavy rainfall in North Carolina during the last two days that resulted in one-category improvement. Isolated locations reportedly received as much as 8.0 inches of rain, improving conditions in central and eastern North Carolina. Changes reflect compromises between wet short-term conditions and lingering deficits at and beyond 12 months.

Although levels along the Mississippi River remained high due to recent weeks of heavy precipitation in the Midwest, low streamflow levels elsewhere in southern Mississippi reflected the continuing drier than average conditions. Moderate Drought (D1) developed in areas of southern Mississippi.

In Alabama and Georgia where hydrological conditions in many areas had improved over the past three to four months in association with winter precipitation that was average to above average, another week of drier than average conditions led to deterioration in southern parts of these states.

An expansion of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions occurred westward along coastal areas of the Big Bend of Florida as far west as Apalachicola following another week of below average rainfall. Although one-month to six-month rainfall totals are above average throughout much of the region and soil moisture and fire danger conditions have improved significantly, long-term water supply problems remain in this area.

In southeast South Carolina, Moderate Drought (D1) developed in areas of the state where rainfall has been less than average over the past month.

## 4. State Responses or Activations

Alabama – EOC at Level IV (Normal Operations).

Florida – EOC at Level III (Monitoring).

Georgia – SOC at Level III, Day-to-Day Activities (GREEN).

Kentucky – EOC at Level I (Normal Operations).

Mississippi – EOC at Level III (Partially Activated w/MEMA only).

North Carolina – EOC at Level IV (Normal Operations-monitoring ongoing drought).

South Carolina – EOC at Level V (Normal Operations).

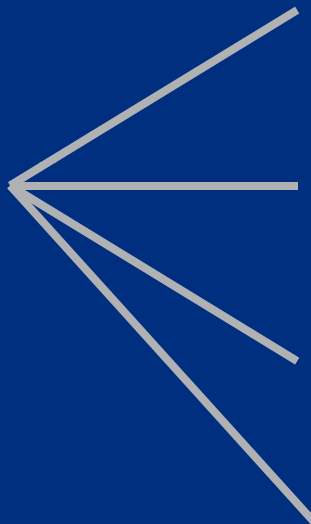
Tennessee – EOC at Level I (Normal Operations).



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# Coordination

- Federal funding is available to coordinate all disaster relief efforts as authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act
- Region IV coordinates with USACE in Atlanta, and additional federal partners



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# FEMA

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