APPENDIX C

MEDIA REPORTS AND TCEQ FORECAST DISCUSSIONS

EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS DEMONSTRATION FOR 2024 $PM_{2.5}$ EXCEEDANCES AT EL PASO COUNTY

AUGUST 5, 2025

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY P.O. BOX 13087 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-3087

APPENDIX C: MEDIA REPORTS AND TCEQ FORECASTS

C.1: GROUP 1 - JANUARY 10, 2023

Table C-1: TCEQ forecast discussions for January 10, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
1/10/2023	El Paso Chamizal	Light winds and lower vertical mixing heights, limiting pollutant dispersion, along with some light urban pollutant carryover from previous days may keep the daily PM _{2.5} AQI at the lower end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the El Paso area.

C.2: GROUP 2 - JANUARY 28 2023

Table C-2: TCEQ forecast discussions for January 28, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
1/28/2023	El Paso Chamizal	Prevailing southwesterly wind flow may begin to usher light residual smoke depending on the amount of agricultural burning activity across portions of Northern Mexico over the Big Bend region and parts of far West Texas. Light morning winds and limited overnight vertical mixing could enhance fine particulate levels as well over portions of far West Texas.



Figure C-1: KVIA 7 report of a house fire in the Lower Valley of El Paso, Texas, Reported on January 28, 2023

C.3: GROUP 3 - FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Table C-3: TCEQ forecast discussions for February 5, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
2/5/2023	El Paso Chamizal	Fine urban particulate levels owing to limited dispersion from light winds and limited vertical mixing could raise the daily PM _{2.5} AQI to the lower end of the "Moderate" range in parts of the El Paso area.

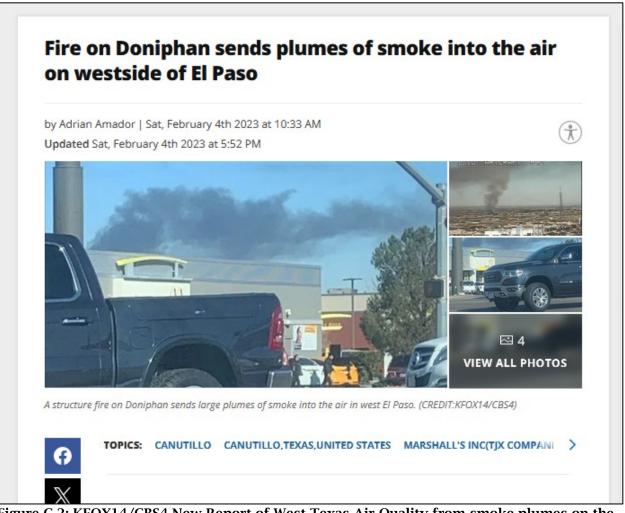


Figure C-2: KFOX14/CBS4 New Report of West Texas Air Quality from smoke plumes on the west side of El Paso, Texas, Reported on February 4, 2023

C.4: GROUP 4 - FEBURARY 26, 2023

Table C-4: TCEQ forecast discussions for February 26, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
2/26/2023	El Paso Chamizal	A fast-moving cold front associated with a potent upper/mid-level storm system will push through the Texas Panhandle, Permian Basin, and far West region starting in the afternoon hours. Patchy blowing dust is expected at times as gusty winds accompany the surface boundary.



The winds are also causing poor visibility and hazardous driving conditions along major roadways, like Interstate 10 through El Paso.

The National Weather Service warns local residents about a significant dust storm with the warning lasting till 2:30, though high winds are forecasted to persist until at least 9 p.m. Sunday night. Dust can be seen sweeping the roads throughout the Borderland.

Figure C-3: KTSM news report of high winds and a significant dust storm in El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico, Reported on February 26, 2023



Figure C-4: KDFW Fox 4 report of traveling dust originating from west Texas, Reported on February 27, 2023

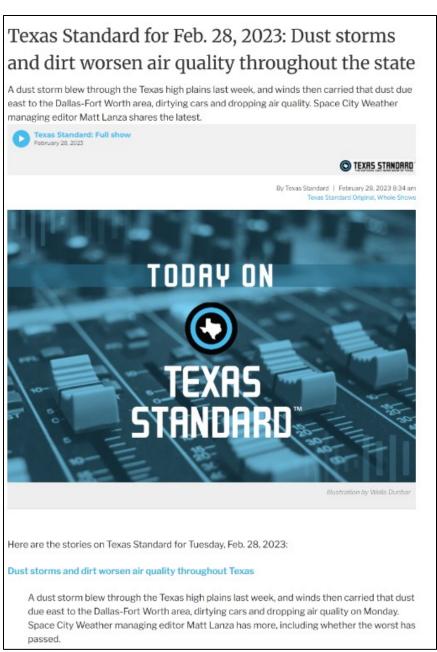


Figure C-5: Texas Standard report of dust storms from west Texas affecting Texas air quality Reported on February 28, 2023

C.5: GROUP 5 - NOVEMBER 5, 2023

Table C-5: TCEQ forecast discussions for November 5, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
11/5/2023	El Paso Chamizal	Slightly elevated urban fine particulate background levels over portions of far West Texas associated with light winds and limited vertical mixing are expected to maintain the slightly elevated fine particulate matter over the region. Depending on the amount of patchy residual smoke associated with the multiple prescribed burnings across Central Arizona, East Arizona, and Southern New Mexico, slightly elevated fine particulate background levels may continue to filter over far West Texas and portions of the Texas Panhandle and Permian Basin.

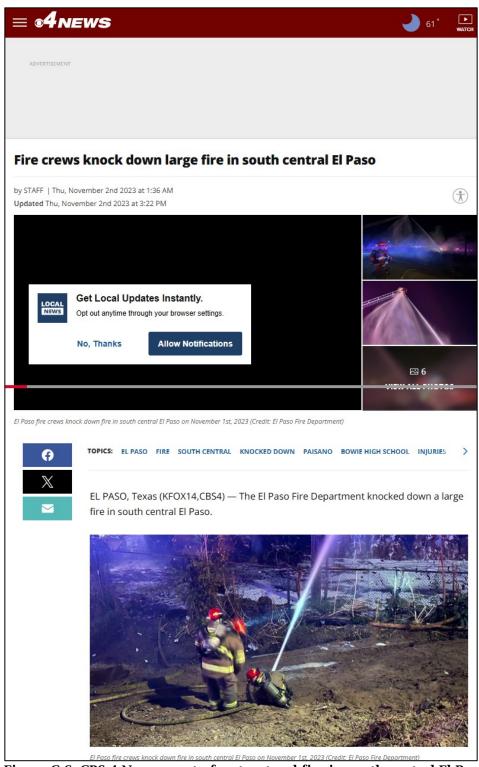


Figure C-6: CBS 4 New report of a structural fire in south central El Paso, Texas, Reported on November 2, 2023

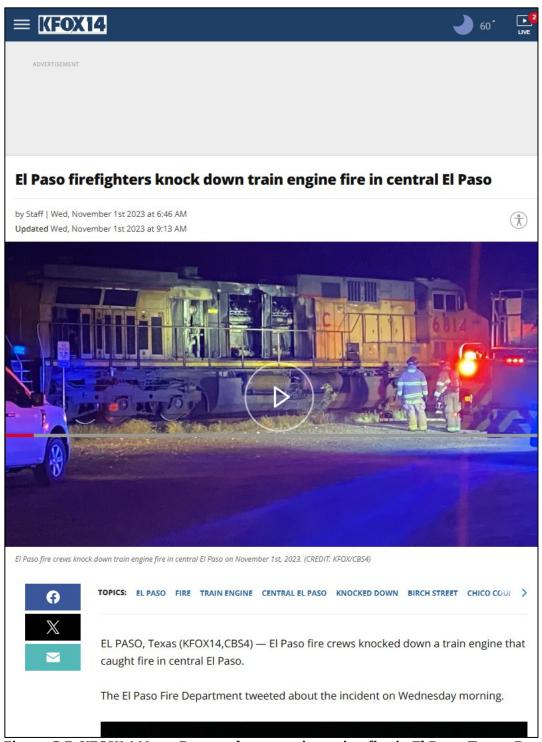


Figure C-7: KFOX14 News Report about a train engine fire in El Paso, Texas, Reported on November $1,\,2023$

C.6: GROUP 6 - NOVEMBER 23, 2023

Table C-6: TCEQ forecast discussions for November 23, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
11/23/2023	El Paso Chamizal	Meanwhile, lights winds, limited vertical mixing, and fine particulate carryover from the previous day in far West Texas are forecast to increase the daily PM _{2.5} /PM ₁₀ AQI into the lower end of the "Moderate" in parts of the El Paso area.

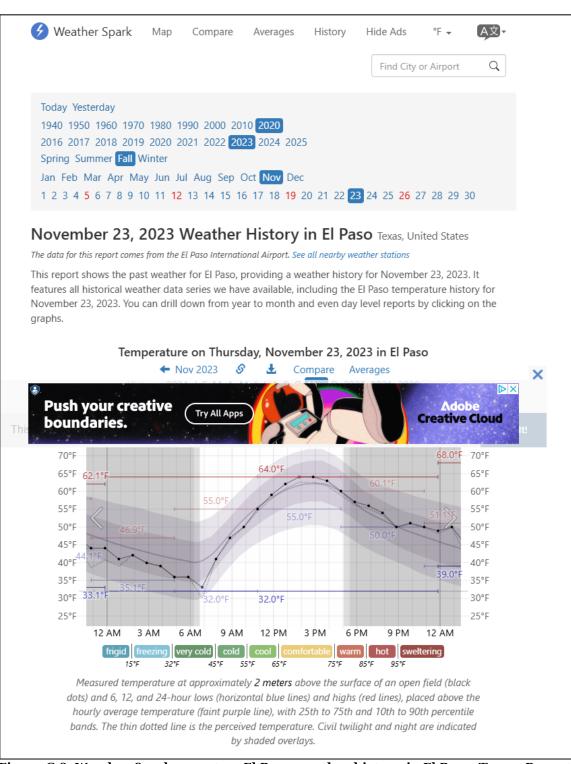


Figure C-8: Weather Spark report on El Paso weather history in El Paso, Texas, Reported on November 23, 2023

C.7: GROUP 7 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

Table C-7: TCEQ forecast discussions for December 31, 2023

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
12/31/2023	El Paso Chamizal	A dry cold front is forecast to move over the Texas Panhandle, Permian Basin, as well as far West Texas, and depending on the timing and movement of the front, South Central and North Central Texas between late evening and overnight hours, bringing slightly breezier and cooler conditions. Locally heavy smoke from celebratory festivities including firework displays for New Years may contribute to PM _{2.5} concentrations, causing PM _{2.5} levels to increase and decrease on an hourly basis throughout the day, primarily in more urban locations and areas in the vicinity and immediately downwind of celebrations.

C.8: GROUP 8 - JANUARY 7, 2024

Table C-8: TCEQ forecast discussions for January 7, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
1/7/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Gusty winds will develop in parts of the Panhandle, Permian Basin, and far West Texas during the afternoon/early evening hours as a low-pressure center begins to deepen in New Mexico. Areas of patchy blowing dust could raise fine particulate levels at times.

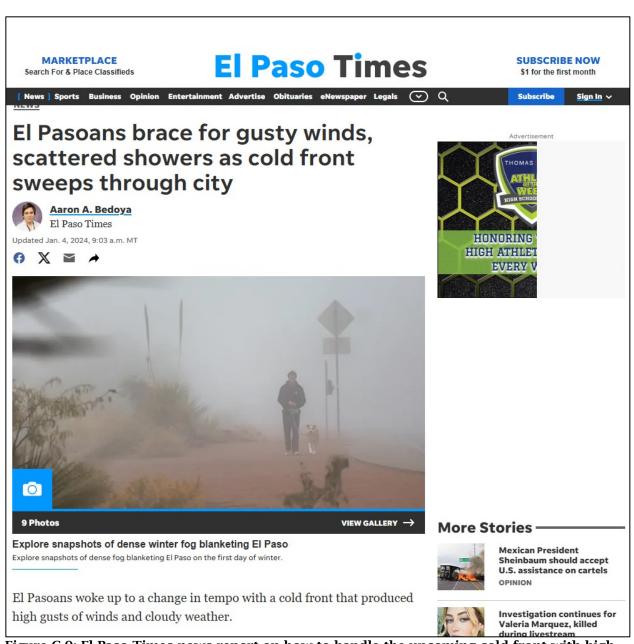


Figure C-9: El Paso Times news report on how to handle the upcoming cold front with high winds in El Paso, Texas, Reported on January 4, 2024



Figure C-10: ABC KVIA news report discussing the brutal cold front that brought high winds to El Paso, Texas, Reported on January 7, 2024

C.9:GROUP 9 - JANUARY 11, 2024

Table C-9: TCEQ forecast discussions for January 11, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
1/11/2024	El Paso Chamizal	The most recent model guidance suggests that the very windy afternoon through overnight conditions will generate and transport blowing dust from a vast section of the Permian Basin as well as from the northern area of the Mexico state of Chihuahua, parts of southern New Mexico, and far West Texas eastward, likely raising PM _{2.5} /PM ₁₀ concentrations at times with lower concentrations suggested by models across the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, and Big Bend region, mostly elevating PM _{2.5} /PM ₁₀ concentrations. Depending on the intensity and duration of the suspended dust particles, the overall daily PM _{2.5} AQI is forecast to rise.

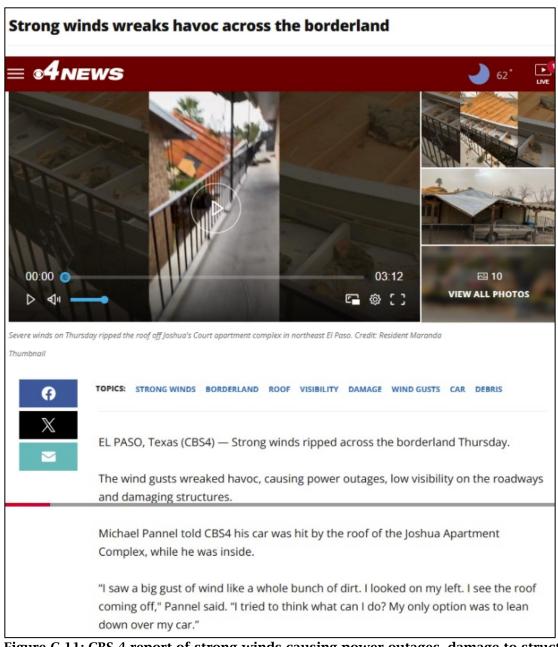


Figure C-11: CBS 4 report of strong winds causing power outages, damage to structures, and low visibility due to dust in El Paso, Texas, Reported on January 11, 2024

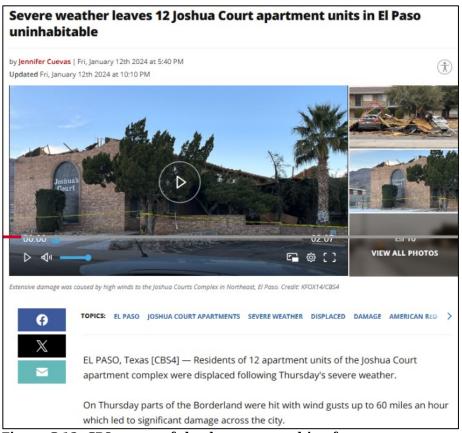


Figure C-12: CBS report of the damages resulting from severe storms and wind gusts occurring on January 11, 2024, in El Paso, Texas, Reported on January 12, 2024

C.10: GROUP 10 - FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Table C-10: TCEQ forecast discussions for February 28, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
2/28/2024	El Paso Chamizal	An area of thin density smoke with areas of moderate density smoke attributed ongoing wildfires in Texas and Nebraska and recent heavy seasonal fire activity was noted from the Texas Panhandle moving northeast continuing north through the Midwest U.S. Fine particulate concentrations remain elevated ahead of the cold front that is currently draped over the South-Central part of the state due to lingering pollutants and high relative humidity. Meanwhile, lingering/suspended dust kicked up from the previous day could be transported south and east as the boundary advances.



Figure C-13: El Paso Times mentioning smoke from Texas Panhandle fires affecting El Paso, Texas, Reported on February 28, 2024

C.11: GROUP 11 - MARCH 24, 2024

Table C-11: TCEQ forecast discussions for March 24, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
3/24/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Lingering suspended dust generated the previous day across the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, and far West Texas along with high daytime winds associated with another cold front may transport additional dust from southern New Mexico and northern Mexico across portions of far West Texas, the western Permian Basin and Texas Panhandle. These conditions may be conducive for PM _{2.5} /PM ₁₀ levels to spike at times.

The National Weather Service has issued a "high wind warning" for several regions in southern New Mexico and El Paso County through Sunday night.

The warning and a wind advisory are in place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for Sunday, March 24, because of strong winds, blowing dust and low visibility due to a windstorm in El Paso and parts of neighboring counties in New Mexico.

Figure C-14: El Paso Times article of a wind advisory noting blowing dust and low visibility in El Paso, Texas, Reported on March 24, 2024

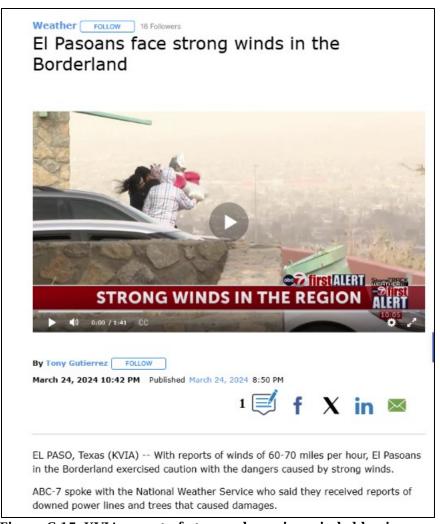


Figure C-15: KVIA report of strong, damaging winds blowing across El Paso, Texas Reported on March 24, 2024

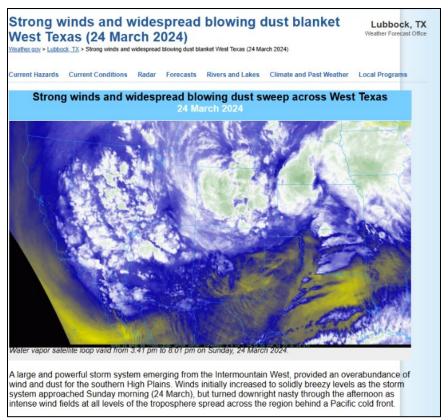


Figure C-16: National Weather Service report of strong winds and blowing dust affecting West Texas, Reported on March 24, 2024

C.12: GROUP 12 - MARCH 31, 2024

Table C-12: TCEQ forecast discussions for March 31, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
3/31/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Gusty winds ahead of an eastward advancing cold front could create conditions conducive for patchy blowing dust in west Texas, the Permian Basin, and Panhandle in addition to transported dust out of South/East New Mexico and northern Mexico. Lingering suspended dust from the previous day could also aid in elevating fine particulate concentrations in far West Texas. The daily $PM_{2.5}/PM_{10}$ AQI could increase.

C.13: GROUP 13 - APRIL 15, 2024

Table C-13: TCEQ forecast discussions for April 15, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
4/15/2024	El Paso Chamizal	As a low pressure system tracks across the Great Plains, a cold front extending south will move through the western third of Texas and bring windy afternoon through late evening conditions to the Texas Panhandle, Permian Basin, South Plains, and far West Texas. Suspended blowing dust is expected through these regions and possibly originate from parts of southern New Mexico and the Northern Mexico state of Chihuahua. The duration and density of the suspended dust may be enough to affect the overall daily PM _{2.5} AQI.

C.14: GROUP 14 - APRIL 25, 2024

Table C-14: TCEQ forecast discussions for April 25, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
4/25/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Increasing winds across most of Texas will continue to pump moisture out of the Gulf of Mexico as higher density smoke advects out of Mexico, covering a large portion of the state this morning, however, an upper tough in southern California is causing much of the smoke to remain aloft, particularly in the northern half. Breezy to gusty winds during the afternoon and evening hours in New Mexico and west Texas could kick up of areas of patchy blowing dust, but the density and duration are not expected to sustain elevated PM _{2.5} concentrations for an extended period.

C.15: GROUP 15 - JUNE 19, 2024

Table C-15: TCEQ forecast discussions for June 19, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
6/19/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Very light amounts of lingering dust from the Saharan plume moving in from the Gulf of Mexico could continue affecting portions of the coastal, Southeast, and East regions of Texas; however showers, thunderstorms, and breezy winds associated with Tropical Storm Alberto in the western Gulf will likely provide sufficient dispersion of fine particulate matter. Pockets of very light amounts of dust could also continue affecting portions of the Panhandle, Permian Basin, and far West Texas.

South Fork Fire, Salt Fire Update 6/19

D JUNE 19, 2024 BY GDUCKER D 0 COMMENTS

Evacuations in place with continued fire growth expected

Public Information Line: 575-323-8258

Media Information Line: 575-323-8053

Phone Line Hours: 8 am - 8 pm

Email: 2024.southfork@firenet.gov

Acres: South Fork - 16,335; Salt - 7,071

Start Date: June 17, 2024

Location: Ruidoso, NM Personnel: 254

Containment: 0%

Fuels: mixed conifer, grass, pine/juniper

Resources: Crews, heavy equipment, engines, helicopters and air tankers.

Highlights: Southwest Area Team 5, led by Incident Commander Dave Gesser, assumed command of the South Fork and Salt fires at 6:00AM, Wednesday, June 19, 2024.

Fire Activity: Extreme fire behavior occurred across the South Fork and Salt fires on Tuesday, with crowning and long-range spotting observed. Aviation resources, including fixed wing air tankers and helicopters, conducted water and retardant drops throughout the day. Air resources worked in conjunction with ground resources, firefighters and heavy equipment, to continue constructing fireline including around structures. Firefighters quickly secured a spot fire on the South Fork Fire Tuesday.

Figure C-17: New Mexico Fire Information update report regarding the South Fork and Salt wildfires in Ruidoso, New Mexico, Reported on June 19, 2024

NATIONAL

Wildfires blaze across New Mexico and California, prompting evacuations

UPDATED JUNE 19, 2024 · 2:17 PM ET ●

By Dave Mistich



A car rides on the road to Roswell, N.M., as smoke from a wildfire partially blocks the sun near the village of Ruidoso, N.M., on Tuesday, June 18. Thousands of southern New Mexico residents fled the mountainous village as a wind-whipped wildfire tore through homes and other buildings.

Andres Leighton/AP

A number of wildfires in New Mexico and California have spawned evacuations, with intense blazes developing quickly and making damage assessments difficult for local officials.

The South Fork Fire, which was first reported Monday morning in southern New Mexico's Village of Ruidoso, has now burned more than 15,000 acres and is 0% contained, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Figure C-18: NPR report of wildfires occurring throughout California and New Mexico, Reported on June 19, 2024

C.16: GROUP 16 - JULY 24 THROUGH JULY 26, 2024

Table C-16: TCEQ forecast discussions for July 24, 2024, through July 26, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
7/24/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Light to moderate density residual smoke from seasonal fire activities across Canada as well as the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. will continue expanding over the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, Big Bend region, far West Texas, North Central Texas, and Northeast Texas, however most of these aerosols are expected to remain aloft. Persistent light morning winds with elevated relative humidity levels are expected to continue to slightly elevate fine particulate background levels in parts of more urban areas.

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
7/25/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Residual smoke from seasonal fire activities across Canada and the Pacific Northwest will continue lingering in denser concentrations over the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, Big Bend region, and far West Texas. These fine particulates should also remain mostly aloft with light densities possibly mixing down to the surface. Persistent light morning winds and/or elevated relative humidity levels are expected to continue to slightly elevate fine particulate background levels in more urban areas of the state.
7/26/2024	El Paso Chamizal	The fine particulate matter associated with the residual smoke from the seasonal fire activities across Canada as well as the Pacific Northwest, that are primarily over the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, Permian Basin, Big Bend region, far West Texas, and portions of North Central Texas, will start to disperse and weaken, however some light amounts are still being observed at the surface. Meanwhile, a light density plume of Saharan dust is filtering and expanding over portions of Texas south and east of a line from Del Rio to Fort Worth, Texas. Persistent light morning winds and/or elevated relative humidity levels are expected to continue to slightly elevate fine particulate background levels in more urban areas of the state.



Figure C-19: ABC 7 Denver news report on wildfire smoke in Denver, Colorado, Reported on July $23,\,2024$

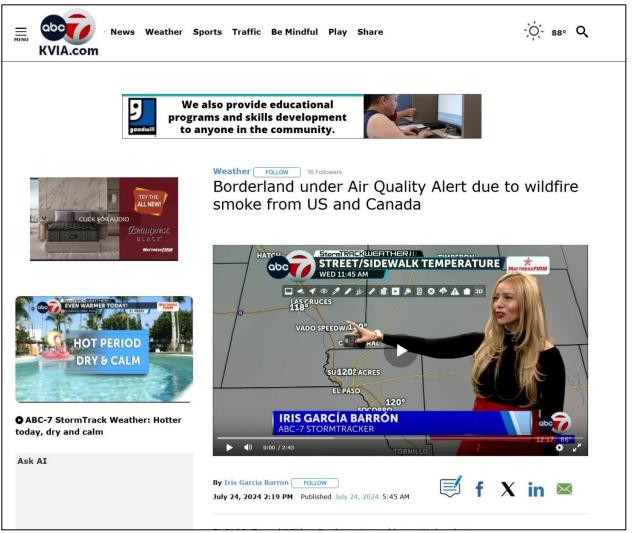


Figure C-20: ABC 7 KVIA news report on wildfire smoke from US and Canada in Borderland, Reported on July 24, 2024

C.17:GROUP 17 - AUGUST 1, 2024

Table C-17: TCEQ forecast discussions for August 1, 2024

EE	Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
8/	1/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Light amounts of dust, light winds, and a large wind shift promoting re-circulation in far West Texas could affect $PM_{2.5}/PM_{10}$ AQI in the El Paso area.



Figure C-21: Fox 7 Austin report on African Dust in Texas, Reported on August 1, 2024



Figure C-22: CBS News Report on African Dust in northern Texas, Reported on August 1, 2024

C.18:GROUP 18 - AUGUST 23, 2024

Table C-18: TCEQ forecast discussions for August 23, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
8/23/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Light morning winds and/or relative humidity levels could continue to slightly enhance fine particulate background levels across more urban portions of the eastern two-thirds of the state as well as portions of far West Texas.

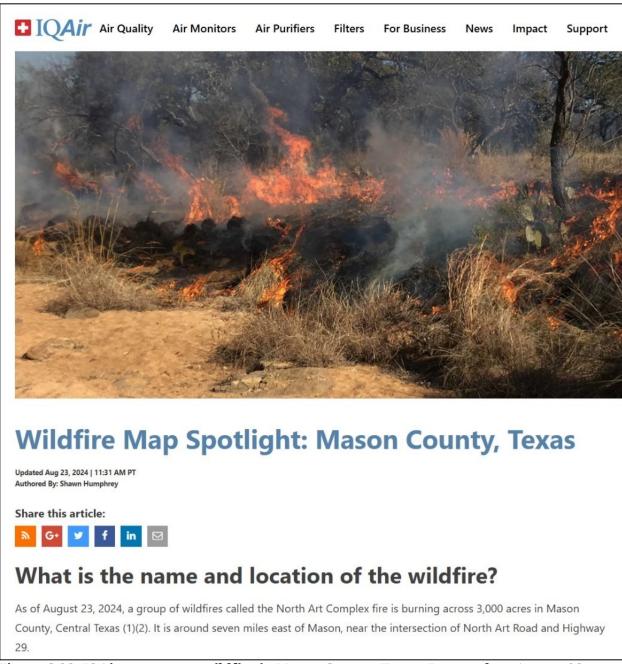


Figure C-23: IQAir report on a wildfire in Mason County, Texas, Reported on August 23, 2024

News **Extreme heat and dry conditions** leave North Texas at high wildfire risk **KERA | By Katherine Hobbs** in 🖂 Published August 23, 2024 at 10:01 AM CDT

Figure C-24: KERA News report on wildfire risk in northern Texas, Reported on August 23, 2024

LOCAL

Multiple wildfires that **burned in Central Texas** over the weekend now contained

by: Julianna Russ Posted: Aug 23, 2024 / 12:55 PM CDT Updated: Aug 26, 2024 / 07:05 AM CDT











AUSTIN (KXAN) — Beginning Thursday and throughout the weekend, three wildfires were reported in Central Texas, and local and state officials have responded to help.

MAP: Keeping track of Central Texas wildfires in 2024 >

North Art Complex Fire

Fire departments are working to put out a wildfire in Mason County. The fire, named the "North Art Complex" fire, was ignited due to a lightning strike.

So far, the fire has burned 4,313 acres, and officials said it has been 100% contained as of Sunday afternoon.

Figure C-25: KXAN Austin report on wildfires in northern Texas, Reported on August 23, 2024

C.19:GROUP 19 - OCTOBER 3, 2024

Table C-19: TCEQ forecast discussions for October 3, 2024

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
10/3/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Slightly elevated urban fine particulate levels associated with light daytime winds may contribute enough towards raising $PM_{2.5}$ levels in the El Paso area.

C.20: GROUP 20 - OCTOBER 29, 2024

$\ \, \text{Table C-20: TCEQ forecast discussions for October 29, 2024} \\$

EE Date	Site Name(s)	Summary of Applicable Information
10/29/2024	El Paso Chamizal	Breezy conditions associated with an arriving cold frontal boundary across the Texas Panhandle, Permian Basin, South Plains, and far West Texas are expected to generate or transport suspended blowing dust through these regions at times.