



Severe Weather Briefing

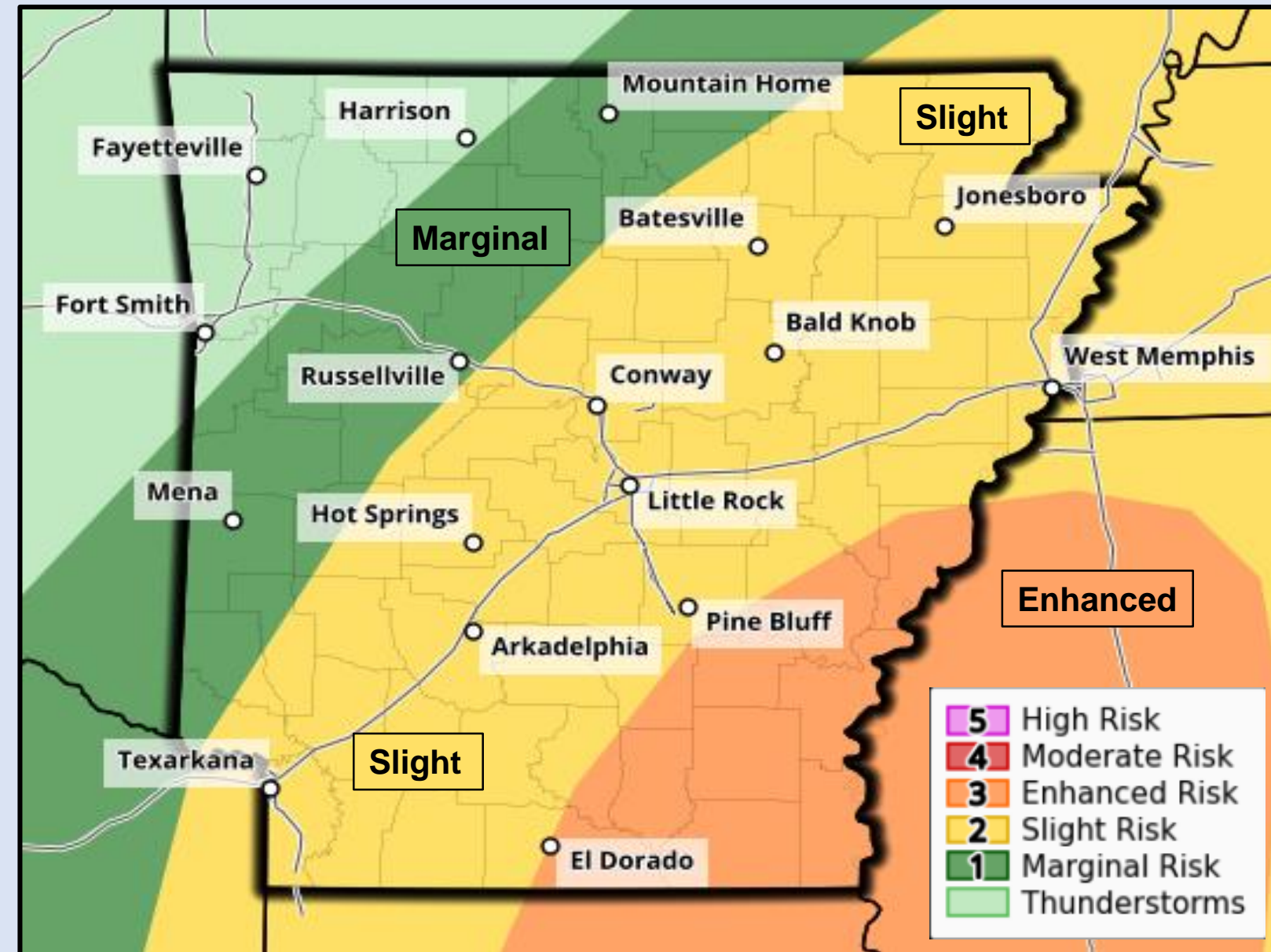
**National Weather Service
Little Rock, Arkansas**

March 22, 2023 – 5:00 AM



- **An active end to the workweek is expected across Arkansas. Thursday and Friday, the threat for severe weather and flooding increase associated with the next weather system to impact the state.**
- **A strong storm system is forecast to bring heavy rainfall as early as Thursday across northern and central portions of the state. The system is then expected to move through the region on Friday. Showers and storms will likely be ongoing Friday morning along the front. As this front advances east and southeast, storms could intensify. Currently, the greatest concern for severe storms are for portions of central and southeastern Arkansas. Severe storm modes include the threat for hail, damaging winds, and a few tornadoes.**
- **In addition to severe weather on Friday, several inches of rain are likely Thursday through Friday night. With the ground saturated in many areas, flash flooding is possible. Ongoing river flooding (especially in the White River Basin) will worsen with new river flooding possible in other basins.**

Severe Weather Friday (March 24)



Showers and thunderstorms will be possible across the area Friday.

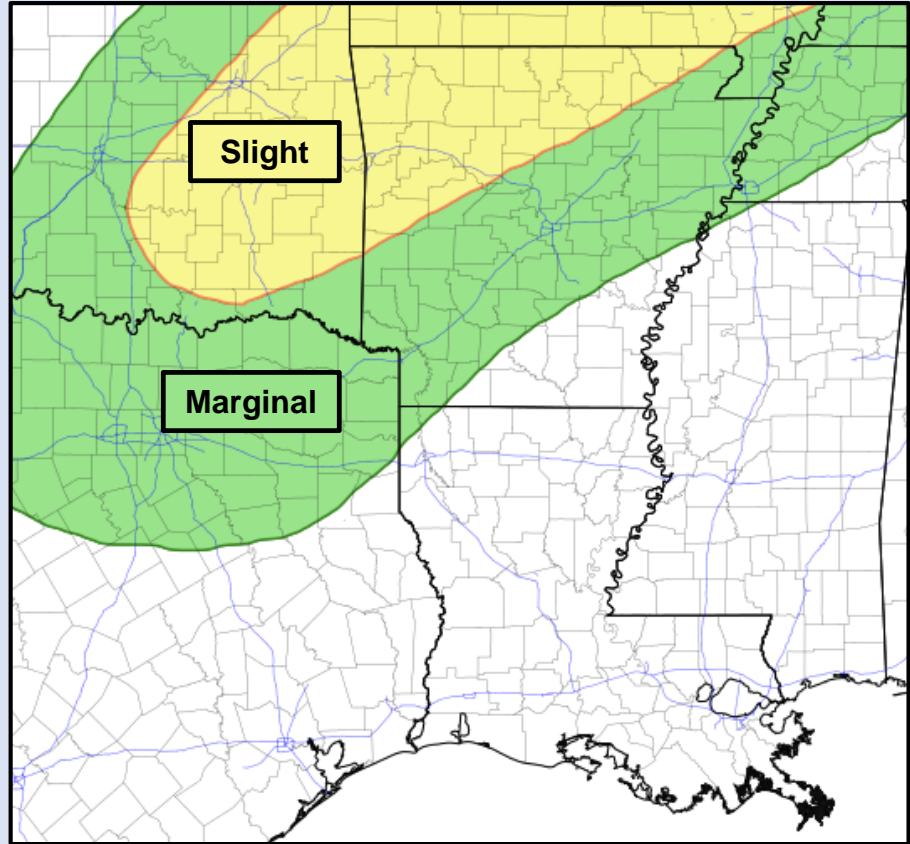
Showers and thunderstorms across northwest Arkansas could intensify as they move east/southeast through the day on Friday. The southeastern half of the state has the greatest chance to see severe weather Friday afternoon and evening.

Damaging winds, hail, and a few tornadoes are possible with these storms.

Excessive Rainfall Outlook



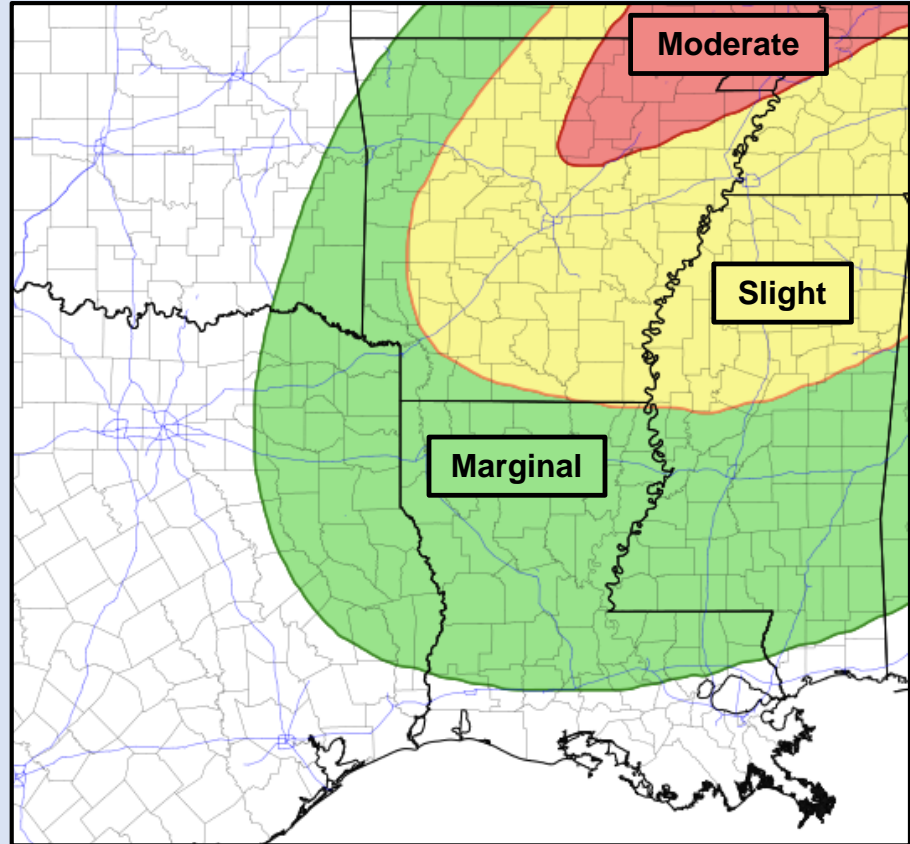
Thursday



Risk of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles of a point

HIGH: At Least 70%	SLGT: At Least 15%
MDT: At Least 40%	MRGL: At Least 5%

Friday



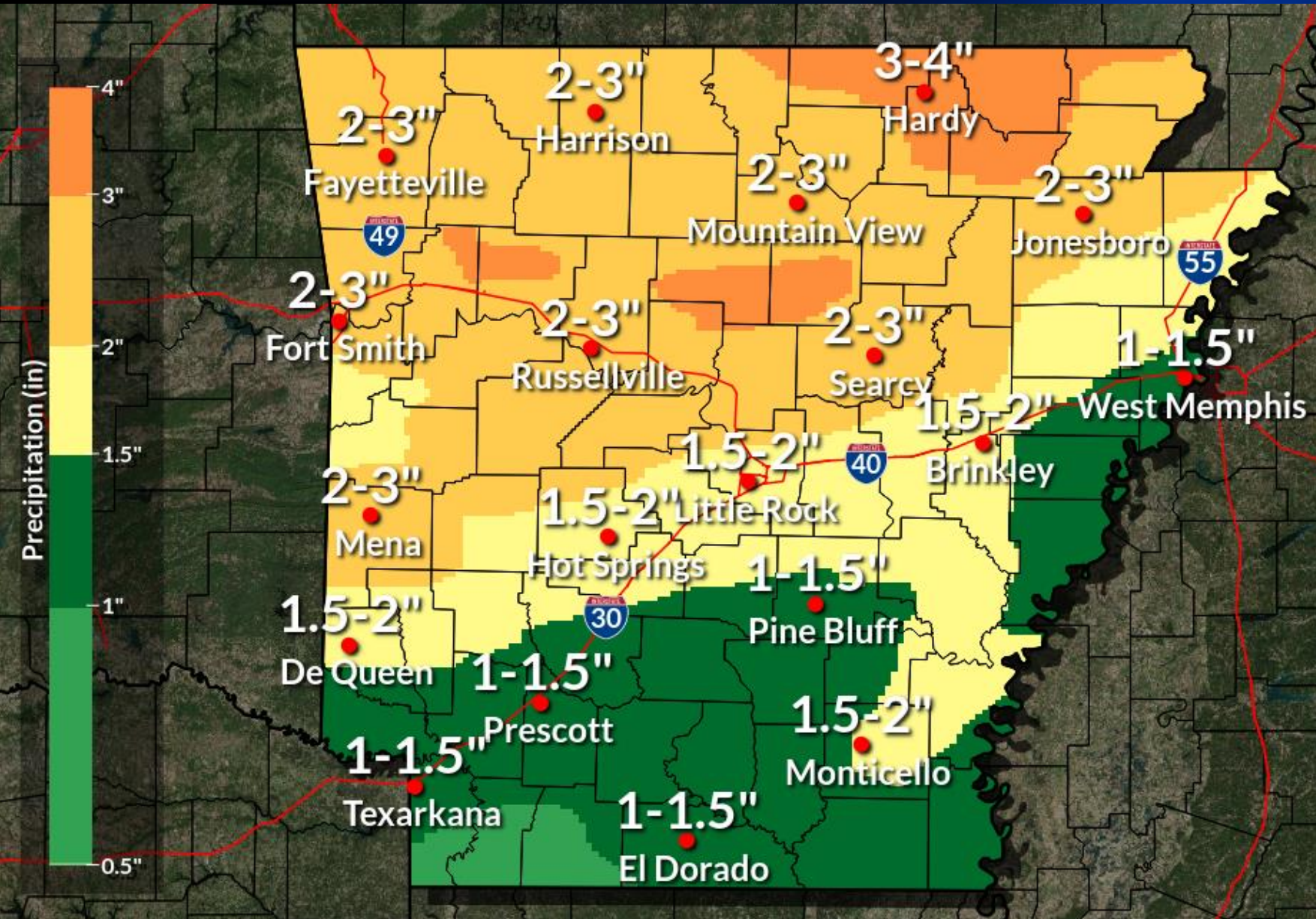
Risk of rainfall exceeding flash flood guidance within 25 miles of a point

HIGH: At Least 70%	SLGT: At Least 15%
MDT: At Least 40%	MRGL: At Least 5%

With the ground saturated in many areas due to recent rainfall, there is a slight to moderate chance that the amount of rain expected Thursday and Friday could lead to flash flooding.

Many area rivers are already running high and additional rises on area waterways are likely.

Forecast Rainfall Thursday and Friday



Several inches of additional rainfall is expected beginning Thursday and lasting through Friday night.

Flash flooding will be possible given very wet and saturated soils across the area. The heaviest rain is expected across portions of northern and central Arkansas where two to four inches are expected. Locally higher amounts will be possible.

This rainfall will drain into area rivers. Those rivers already in flood stage will likely stay there while additional rivers could rise back into flood stage.



Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

Thunderstorms (no label)

No severe storms expected

Lightning/flooding threats exist with all storms



Enhanced (ENH)

Numerous severe storms possible

More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense

Marginal (MRGL)

Isolated severe storms possible

Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity



Moderate (MDT)

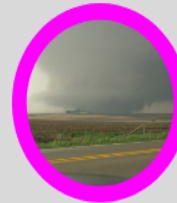
Widespread severe storms likely

Long-lived, widespread and intense

Slight (SLGT)

Scattered severe storms possible

Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms



High (HIGH)

Widespread severe storms expected

Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense



NWS defines a severe thunderstorm as measured wind gusts of at least 58 mph, and/or hail of at least one inch in diameter, and/or a tornado. All thunderstorm categories imply lightning and the potential for flooding. Categories are also tied to the probability of a severe weather event within 25 miles of your location.



For the latest information



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