

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
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NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Jan. 13, 2026**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Drought conditions slightly degraded in parts of the western Piedmont and Foothills after a dry week, but held steady in eastern NC after rainfall last weekend.

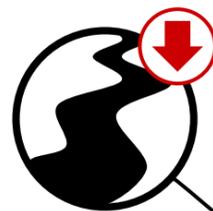
This Week's Summary

Two weeks ago, western NC saw a sizable rain event while eastern areas missed out. Last week, that pattern reversed with up to an inch of rain in the Coastal Plain and much lower totals inland. While that has given decent rainfall coverage, totals have been lower than normal in most areas so far this year, which has helped drought expand during the first three weeks of 2026.

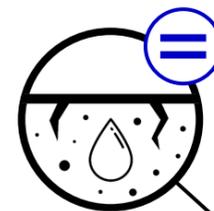
Next Week's Outlook

A high-impact winter storm will play out this weekend, with a mix of snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain likely and liquid totals of 1 to 3 inches expected statewide.

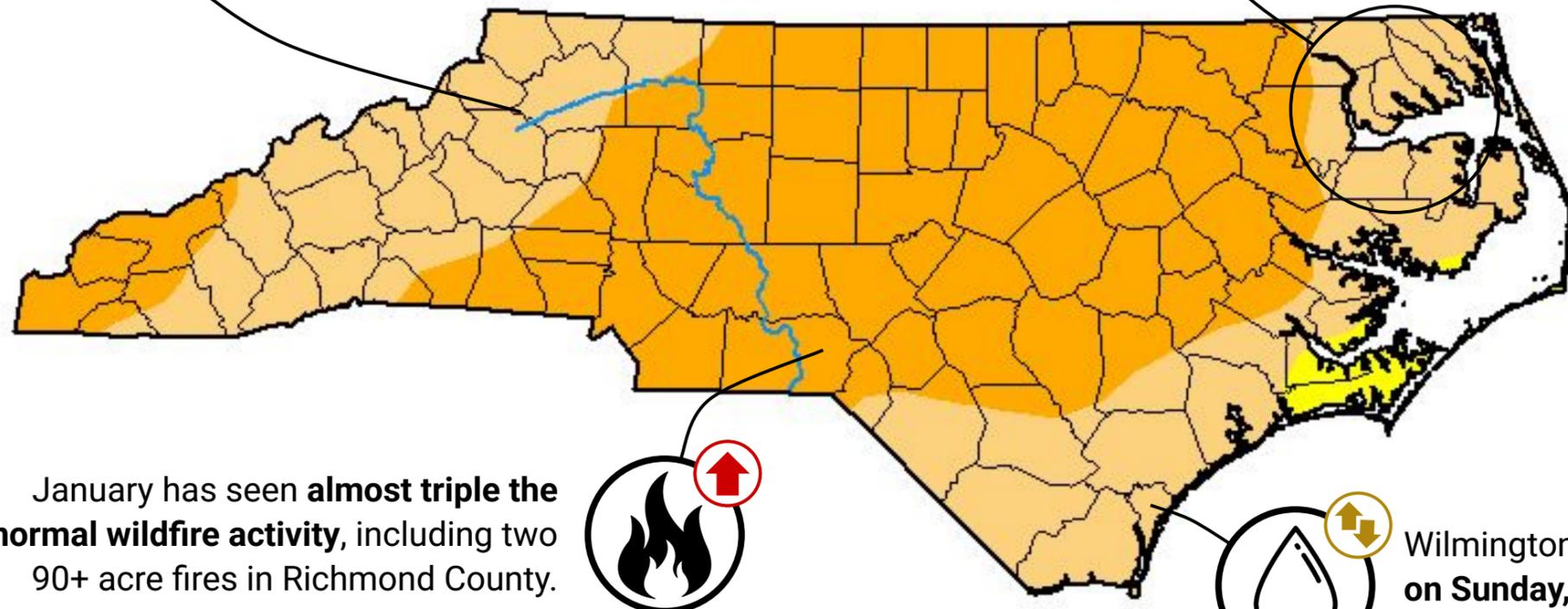
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



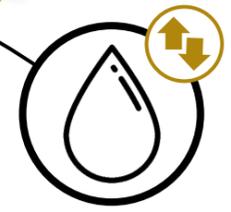
Since spiking following the rain event on January 10th, **real-time streamflows on Elk Creek have fallen back below normal** after a bone dry week.



After an inch of rain in the northeast last weekend, **groundwater levels saw a small rise but remain below normal for this time of year.**

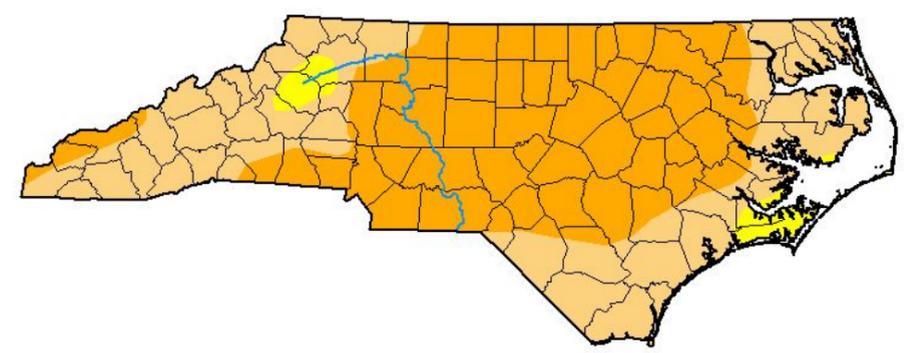


January has seen **almost triple the normal wildfire activity**, including two 90+ acre fires in Richmond County.



Wilmington had **0.68 inches of rain on Sunday**, but it's at just **40% of its normal precip.** so far in January.

Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	1.87%	-1.54%
D1: Moderate Drought	39.40%	-1.66%
D2: Severe Drought	58.73%	+3.20%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%