Fire Situation Report – March 8, 2017

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services

PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/07/17 thru 03/08/17

NE Area – 1 fire burned 4 acres (Cause: Lightning)
EC Area – 2 fires burned 99 acres (Causes: 1-Incendiary; 1-Escaped Controlled Burn)
SE Area – 0 fires

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area: None

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area: Numerous OFS resources committed to the Northwest Oklahoma Complex wildfires. Resources include Overhead, Type 6 Engines, Bulldozers, Fixed-wing and Rotor-wing aircraft.

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: No Activity

* Protection Area Statistics do not reflect local fire department's fire run information. Statistics are for the ODAFF-Forestry Services' fifteen county Fire Protection Area in eastern Oklahoma unless otherwise noted in the Discussion section of this report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS from www.firereporting.ok.gov recorded on 03/06/17 thru 03/08/17**

FD Statistics unavailable at this time due to a system outage.

*These statistics are from Fire Departments that have recorded their information on the Oklahoma, Forestry Services web-based Fire Reporting System. Totals do not reflect the total acres burned or total number of fires that have occurred in Oklahoma.

Large Fire Activity outside of the Protection Area:

Northwest Oklahoma Complex – Oklahoma Forestry Services Type 3 IMT is in Unified Command with Woodward, Buffalo, Laverne, Slapout and Mooreland. A Type 1 Incident Management Team has been ordered. Significant growth occurred on all fires in the complex. Numerous OFS overhead, heavy equipment, Type 6 Engines, and aircraft are assigned to the complex to assist local fire departments with the control efforts. An Area Coordination Center and Staging Area has been established at the Woodward County Fairgrounds to facilitate resource assignments and ordering. All fires in the complex were aerially mapped yesterday evening.

Starbuck (Beaver and Harper County) - 715,484 acres total in Oklahoma and Kansas, 0% containment. Near the Oklahoma communities of Buffalo, Knowles, Gate, Rosston, and Laverne. Numerous residences, secondary structures, livestock and other infrastructure lost, 0 % containment. Numerous communities remain threatened. Fire growth continued yesterday and through the nighttime hours.

Selman (Harper and Woodward County) – 47,289 acres, 0% containment located approximately 10 miles north of Woodward. No estimate on residences or secondary structures lost. Damage assessments are on-going.. Numerous residences remain threatened. Fire growth continued yesterday and through the nighttime hours.

283 Fire (Harper County) – 71,168 acres, 0% containment Near the communities of Rosston, Laverne, and May.no estimate on residences or secondary structures lost, damage assessments are on-going. 0 % containment. Numerous communities remain threatened. Fire growth continued yesterday and through the nighttime hours.

Statewide Discussion: Extreme fire danger will exist across a large part of Oklahoma today. Very poor humidity recovery in fine fuels will allow for early fire starts today. Relative humidity is expected to fall into the upper single digits to low teens across the majority of the state today. Southerly winds from 15 to 20 mph with gusts near and above 30 mph are forecast. Temperatures this afternoon are expected to reach into the 70 degree range. The current forecast calls for the highest wind gusts to be east of Interstate 35 and north of US 412. **Expect any fire that starts today to burn very intensely with rapid rates of spread.**

A Red Flag Warning is in effect for the following counties in Oklahoma: Alfalfa, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Cleveland, Craig, Creek, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grady, Grant, Harper, Kay, Kingfisher, Lincoln, Logan, Major, McClain, Noble, Nowata, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa, Washington, Washita, Woods, and Woodward.

Click on the following links for more detailed information about the Warned Area (Norman NWS Forecast Office http://www.weather.gov/oun/ and the Tulsa NWS Forecast Office http://www.weather.gov/tsa/)

SPECIAL NOTE TO FIREFIGHTERS: Today's fire weather conditions will allow any fire to start to exhibit extreme fire behavior and be resistant to control. Resource availability may be limited due to deployments other incidents over the last few days.

Any available County Wildland Task Forces should remain prepared for action and possible deployment to incidents across the state.

Numerous County Burn Bans are in effect. For the most current information on Burn Bans click on the following link: http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information

Remember… ***ONLY YOU can prevent wildfires! Enjoy Oklahoma's wildlands responsibly.***
Report any suspicious wildland fire activity on the
Arson Tip Line: 1-866-662-7766 (1-866-NO ARSON).
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