

Fire Situation Report – October 10, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 10/03/16 thru 10/10/16

NE Area – 3 Fires Burned 36 Acres (Cause: 3-Escaped Debris)
EC Area – 3 Fires Burned 8 Acres (Cause: 1-Incendiary, 1-Escaped Debris, 1-Structure)
SE Area – 9 Fires Burned 49.2 Acres (6-Incendiary, 1-Escaped Debris, 1-Equipment)

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area: No Activity

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area: No Activity

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: 3 Rx Fires Treating 250 Acres (LeFlore & McCurtain Counties)

* 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 10/03/16 thru 10/10/16

• 4 Fires Burned 4 Acres (Cause: 1-Escaped Debris, 1-Equipment, 1-Incendiary) Roosevelt & Guymon FDs Reporting

*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.

Statewide Discussion:

Rainfall over the last week provided a late-season boost in live herbaceous fuel moisture across much of Oklahoma; however two areas of building concern received much less precipitation – Northwestern Oklahoma/Panhandle Area and Southeastern Oklahoma. Warm season grasses are beginning to exhibit a trend toward dormancy and will become increasingly more available as fall progresses. Fire behavior in timbered areas is still moderated by shading with leaf cover as well as live-woody fuel moisture, but that benefit is expected to wane in the weeks to come.

Focusing in on the areas of building concern:

Northwest Oklahoma/Panhandle – Far northwestern and Panhandle counties including Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, northern Ellis, northern Woodward and western Woods counties have trended toward receiving somewhat frequent light rains over the past couple of months staving off significant fire danger; however a negative departure from normal precipitation over the last 30 days is translating into decreased live fuel moisture and increased fuel availability. Expected fire behavior will generally be moderate unless coupled with very dry/windy weather and an excess of 2 days separation from precipitation. Energy Release Component is running slightly above normal at this time, and above observations at this time last year. The extrapolated ERC over the next week indicates that conditions will remain fairly stable in this regard; however a mid-week front has potential to result in briefly higher fire danger indices on the leading edge with some potential for lighting ignitions.

Southeastern Oklahoma - Areas south and east of a line from Bryan County to Sequoyah County have registered KBDI values in excess of 500 for much of the summer continuing into fall. Bryan, Choctaw and Atoka Counties have been parked in the 600-760 range for an extended period of time, and these observations are supported by multiple other measures/observations translating into stressed fuels and increasing fuel availability ahead of seasonal dormancy. Like much of the state, this area has received somewhat regular rainfall; however amounts have infrequently equated to a wetting rain. Energy Release Component across eastern Oklahoma has been at the upper end of the range of average for the bulk of the summer. A mid-week weather system is expected to usher in some much needed precipitation and a potential boost in the cool-season, herbaceous fuel moisture moderating conditions as the area edges toward dormancy.

In general, rainfall late last week across Oklahoma has generally reduced fire danger. Initial attack efforts are expected to be successful through the week given fuel moisture scenarios and respectable overnight moisture recovery. A weather system forecast to arrive Wednesday is expected to be accompanied by gusty winds switching clock-wise from south to north and increasing to sustained northwest-north winds of 15-20 mph and gusts around 25 mph. Some concern is present for a brief period of increased fire danger ahead of the front in northwest Oklahoma; however that is dependent upon precipitation development.

No Burn Bans are presently active. 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).

Prepared by: Drew Daily, Fire Staff Forester, Oklahoma Forestry Services - ODAFF

