

Fire Situation Report – March 15, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/14/16 thru 03/15/16

NE Area – No Activity
EC Area – No Activity
SE Area – 2 Fire Burned 6.1 Acre (Cause: 1-Incendiary, Escaped Debris)

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area: **No New Activity**

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:
• Clark Fire (Pawnee County) – 327 Acres, 75% Contained

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 03/14/16 thru 03/15/16

- **No New Activity Reported – Activity noted in media.**

** - 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: Red Flag Warning in effect for 38 counties in Oklahoma today until 7:00 PM generally north and west of a line from Delaware County to Jefferson County. A cold front moving across Oklahoma will push critical fire weather into much of the state today. Strong, gusty northwest winds, low relative humidity and above normal temperatures will result in Very High to Extreme fire danger indices today. Outdoor burning is strongly discouraged.

Panhandle/Northwest Oklahoma: Northwest winds 20-30 mph gusting to near 40 mph at times. Above normal temperatures at 65°-70° under clear skies with relative humidity values this afternoon dropping to 8-18%.

Northeast/Central/Western Oklahoma: Shifting winds this morning from west to northwest as the cold front moves through. The northwest winds behind the front will be very strong sustained at 15-25 mph gusting to around 35 mph. Well above normal temperatures ranging from near 70° in southwest Oklahoma to 80° in northeast counties will work to drive relative humidity values down into the critical range this afternoon at 12-20%.

Much of the Oklahoma landscape is still covered by dormant fuels that will react very quickly to the fire weather expected today resulting in very receptive fuels. Fuels that received precipitation on Sunday were burning vigorously yesterday afternoon. Fire behavior this afternoon will pose challenges to control given the rapid rate of spread and potential for erratic fire behavior. Control challenges will also be compounded by poor access given the wide area of saturated soils limiting access.

Special Note to Firefighters: Prior to committing engines off-road, scout the area to find wet areas and soft spots in effort to keep from hanging up engines in mud. Insure that off-road engine tactics incorporate "Attack from the Black" tactics to avoid getting stuck in unburned fuels.

Resources:

- OFS will have Task Force and Overhead Personnel Resources prepositioned for response.
- National Guard rotor-wing aircraft will be available.
- Fixed-wing Tanker Available

To Request Resources call the Incident Resource Hotline at (800) 800-2481

Harper County has issued a county burn ban. 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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