

Fire Situation Report – March 17, 2015

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/16/15 thru 03/17/15

NE Area – 0 fires

EC Area – 1 fire burned 15 acres (Cause: Escaped Controlled Burn)

SE Area – 0 Fires

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

No Activity

Large Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

See below

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 03/16/15 thru 03/17/15

3 fires burned 19 acres (Causes: 1-Debris Burning; 1-Equipment Use) Reporting Department(s): *Guymon FD & Tecumseh FD*

** - 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: Yesterday's strong winds, high temperatures and low relative humidity yesterday allowed several large fires to occur across Oklahoma. One request for State assistance was received yesterday:

Boiling Springs (Woodward County): This on-going large wildfire started approximately two miles north and five miles east of Woodward. Two Oklahoma Forestry Services Task Forces, ten County Wildland Task Forces, one Oklahoma Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopter, and several overhead personnel were committed to this fire yesterday and through the night. Suppression efforts were hampered by rapid spread rates, very dry fuels and difficult terrain. Firefighting resources continued fireline construction through the night. Additional OFS and County Wildland Task Forces have been ordered to provide relief for the resources that worked overnight. The fire has burned approximately 23,500 acres and is 20% contained. The number of structures lost and the fire's cause has not been reported at the time of this report.

Fire danger today will be highest near and north of the Interstate 44 corridor. A cold front is currently crossing the state and is bringing with it strong, north-northeast winds. Relative humidity will not be as low as yesterday, but is expected to drop into the 40% range behind the front. Temperatures are forecast to reach into the 50s and 60s. Expect any fire starting this afternoon in grassy fuels to exhibit intense burning with moderate to rapid rates of spread.

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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