

Fire Situation Report – March 22, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/21/16 thru 03/22/16

NE Area – 2 Fires Burned 40.5 Acres (Cause: 1-Incendiary, 1-Escaped Control Burn)

EC Area – 3 Fires Burned 219 Acres (Cause: 2-Debris, 1-Escaped Control Burn)

SE Area – 5 Fires Burned 8.7 Acres (Cause: 4-Incendiary, 1-Debris)

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

No Activity

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

- Ranchland Fire (Osage County) – 600 Acres, 75% Contained
- South Logan Fire (Logan County) – 43 Acres, 75% Contained, Numerous Structures Threatened

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity:

- 1 Rx Fire Treating 320 Acres (Latimer County)

* 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 03/21/16 thru 03/22/16

- 2 Fires Burned 620 Acres (Cause: 2-Misc.) Tecumseh & Morgans Corner FD's 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: A Red Flag Warning is in effect for 52 Counties in Oklahoma today from Noon through 9:00 PM generally north and west of a line from Delaware County to Cotton County. Critical fire weather indices are expected to be met early in the day and continue into the nighttime hours.

Panhandle/Northwest Oklahoma: 80°-86°, Relative Humidity 5-11%, southwest winds 20-35 mph gusting to near 45 mph at times. Fine-dead fuel moisture as low as 2% with Probability of Ignition 100% this afternoon.

Western Oklahoma: 80°-87°, Relative Humidity 12-18%, southwest winds 20-30 mph gusting to near 40 mph this afternoon into the evening. Fine-dead fuel moisture 3-4% with Probability of Ignition 90%.

Central/Northeast Oklahoma: 74°-79°, Relative Humidity 18-25%, south winds increasing into the afternoon to 25-35 mph with gusts of 40-45 mph. Fine-dead fuel moisture 3-5% with Probability of Ignition greater than 60%.

Initial attack efforts will likely prove to be very challenging today with potential for extreme rates of fire spread and erratic fire behavior within the warned area. Typical grass fuels may exhibit a rate of spread near 400 ft./min. Areas where cool-season grasses have initiated some green up may see slightly reduced rates of spread; however freeze impacted fine fuels and resistant, warm season grasses will potentially observe rates of spread in excess of 400 ft./min. Given the high Probability of Ignition and strong winds throughout the warned area, spotting of up to ¼-mile should be anticipated where sources of firebrand are present including heavy fuel concentrations, hardwoods retaining dormant leaves, Eastern Redcedar, etc.

Fire weather and fuel conditions may pose even greater threat tomorrow as a cold front is expected to move across Oklahoma with limited precipitation chances isolated to southeast Oklahoma. As such, a Fire Weather Watch is in effect for a large area of Oklahoma tomorrow. Slightly cooler temperatures will be present, but still above critical criteria. Humidity will once again be very low concentrating in southwest Oklahoma and up into north-central counties. Winds will again be problematic encouraging rapid rates of fire spread and producing shifting spread direction as the cold front approaches. Southwest winds 20-35 mph with gusts of 40 mph should be anticipated with some gusts near 55 mph expected as winds shift to the northwest by evening.

Resources:

- OFS will have Task Force Resources repositioned in central and western Oklahoma.
- Fixed-Wing Tanker and National Guard Rotor-Wing aircraft available.
- County Wildland Task Force resources.

Call the Incident Resource Hotline at (800) 800-2481 to request resources.

Special Note to Firefighters:

- County Wildland Task Force resources should be prepared for mobilization.

Harper and Cimarron Counties have 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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