

# Fire Situation Report – March 23, 2016

## Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



### PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS\* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/22/16 thru 03/23/16

NE Area – 6 fires burned 150 acres (Causes: 4-Incendiary; 2-Esc. Debris Burns)  
EC Area – 6 fires burned 176 acres (Causes: 5-Incendiary; 1-Esc. Controlled Burn)  
SE Area – 3 fires burned 82 acres (Causes: 3-Incendiary)

**NOTE: As of 0800 hours this morning, Oklahoma Forestry Services firefighters continued suppression work on three large fires that started yesterday. These fires are located in Woods County, Lincoln County, and Pottawatomie 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](http://www.firereporting.ok.gov) recorded on 02/18/16 thru 02/19/16

**1 fire burned 95 acres (Cause: Under Investigation) Reporting Department: 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:** Extreme fire activity was noted in several Oklahoma counties yesterday, Several large fires occurred and are on-going at the time of this report. A short synopsis of those fires where information is available is as follows:

**Anderson Creek (Woods County)** – estimated at 48,000 acres, located two miles north of Camp Houston. This fire has burned into the State of Kansas from its ignition point in Oklahoma. Numerous structures and communities are threatened. Unified Command is established with Woods County and Oklahoma Forestry Services. The Oklahoma IMT3 is assigned to this incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**Boar Ridge (Latimer County)** – This incendiary-caused wildfire burned 120 acres approximately two miles north of Yanush. The fire is now 80% contained.

**Rattlesnake Hill (Pottawatomie County)** – Also reported as the McComb Fire. Approximately 95 acres has burned three miles east of McComb. One outbuilding was reported as lost. Unified Command was established between McComb FD, Tecumseh FD and Oklahoma Forestry Services. This fire is listed as 20% contained. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

**Bear Creek (Custer and Blaine Counties)** – This wildfire burned approximately 725 acres approximately six miles east of Thomas. Unified Command was established with Thomas FD, Greenfield FD and Oklahoma Forestry Services. The fire started as a result of welding and is approximately 30% contained.

**Extreme Fire danger will be present today across a large portion of Oklahoma. A Red Flag Warning is in effect northwest of a line from Nowata County to Love County.** In and near this area the relative humidity is expected to drop into the single digits to lower teens range. Southerly winds are forecast in the 30-40 mph range with 50 mph winds gusts possible. Temperatures are expected to climb into the 80 degree range. **Any fire starting in this area has the potential to burn with extreme rates of spread and erratic fire behavior. A wind shift will occur late in the evening, with strong northwest winds forecast behind a dry line.**

**SPECIAL NOTE TO FIREFIGHTERS:** County Wildland Task Forces should anticipate and be prepared for mobilization today. Competition for suppression resources will be high. Aerial suppression assets may be grounded due to the expected high winds. Be prepared for a change in fire spread direction after the passage of the dry line.

**Two County Burn Bans currently in effect in Oklahoma: Harper County and Cimarron County.** 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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