

Fire Situation Report – March 30, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/29/16 thru 03/30/16

- NE Area – 4 Fires Burned 8.4 Acres (Cause: 1-Incendiary, 2-Escaped Prescribed Fire, 1-Debris)
- EC Area – 4 Fires Burned 840 Acres (Cause: 4-Incendiary)
- SE Area – No Activity

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

- Grassy Top Fire (Latimer County) – 600 Acres, 75% Contained
- Powder Mill Fire (Latimer County) – 315 Acres, 75% Contained

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

- Anderson Creek (Woods County and State of Kansas) – Transfer of command from Les Rogers' Type II Incident Management Team to Freedom Fire Department and other local jurisdictions occurred at 7:00 a.m. this morning. Minimal fire activity observed within the fire perimeter with control lines standing up to the test of two days of elevated fire weather. Area burned 367,620 acres (95% Contained) in Woods County (OK), Comanche County (KS), and Barber County (KS). 41 structures were lost in this fire including 16 residences.

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: 2 Rx Fires Treating 395 Acres (Haskell & Latimer 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 03/29/16 thru 03/30/16

- No Reported Activity

*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 Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, Woods, Alfalfa, Ellis, Woodward, Major, Roger Mills, Dewey, Custer, Beckham, Washita, Harmon, Greer, Kiowa, Jackson and Tillman Counties in Western Oklahoma today from 1:00 PM through 9:00 PM. Within the warned area, critical fire weather will exist behind a dry line where temperatures will range from 70°-80° (slightly cooler in the western Panhandle) under mostly clear skies this afternoon. Relative humidity values will rapidly fall into the 10-20% range driving dormant fuel moisture into the 3-5% range with 90% probability of ignition in unshaded fuels. Receptive fuels will be subject to southwest winds 20-35 mph gusting to around 40 mph. Any fire that becomes initiated will likely exhibit erratic fire behavior with rates of spread 250-400 ft./min. with significant fireline intensity.

A cold front is expected to enter into the warned area late in the burning period with winds shifting clockwise from southwest to northwest. Wind speed during the overnight hours are forecast to downgrade only slightly to 13-20 mph and continued gusts up to 25 mph. Unfortunately, the cold front is expected to pass through dry across the area of highest fire danger.

East of the dry line relative humidity values, ongoing showers in south-central Oklahoma and storm chances this afternoon are expected to limit fire danger. Fire activity cannot be completely ruled out especially in areas of successive drying days where non-pastured wildlands continue to hold ample dormant fuels. Storms in the area of any going fire may prompt erratic fire behavior.

Dry conditions are expected to persist in the short-term across western Oklahoma stalling green-up that would limit fire danger. Wheat fields, grazed areas and maintained grasses are showing fuel moisture improvement; however significant fuel availability remains in much of western Oklahoma. Elevated fire danger is expected through at least the beginning of next week.

Resources:

- OFS will have Task Force Resources prepositioned for response within the Red Flag Warning Area.
- Fixed-Wing Tanker, Air-Attack 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 – keeping in mind that there is a potential for severe weather in eastern Oklahoma.

Harper, Cimarron and Texas 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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