

Fire Situation Report – April 4, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/31/16 thru 04/04/16

- NE Area – 14 Fires Burned 301.8 Acres (Cause: 9-Incendiary, 2-Debris, 1-Equipment, 1-Breakover, 1- Escaped Control Burn)
- EC Area – 9 Fires Burned 218.5 Acres (7-Incendiary, 1-Debris, 1-Escaped Control Burn)
- SE Area – 3 Fire Burned 2.6 Acres (Cause: 3-Incendiary)

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

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

- Kephart Fire (Blaine County) – 2,000 Acres (est.), 25% Contained – OFS Task Force engaged
- Questar Fire (Woodward County) – Acreage not yet reported – Single-Engine Air Tankers

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 04/01/16 thru 04/04/16

- 3 Fires Burned 42 Acres (Cause: 2-Debris, 1-Electrical) – Roosevelt & Guymon FD's Reporting
- Additional Fires Reported:
 - Luther Road Fire (Logan County) – 40.25 Acres
 - 181st Fire (Creek County) – 161 Acres

**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: Warm temperatures and low relative humidity will continue to promote dry and receptive fuels stalling green-up in the grass and brush fuel models across Oklahoma. East-northeast winds will fall under critical criteria limiting rate of fire spread offering opportunity for successful initial attack today in many areas. **The highest fire danger today will lie west of I-35 where relative humidity values are expected to fall below 20%.** Most of western Oklahoma has not experienced a wetting rain in seven days with sizeable sections in excess of twenty-five days departure from wetting rains (Roger Mills and Cimarron Counties are in excess of 100 days departure). Fire danger in the Panhandle and northwestern Oklahoma, and extending in to broader areas of Oklahoma, have observed a setback in seasonal green-up given the lack of moisture and a series of successive frost/freeze events in recent days.

A Red Flag Warning is in effect on Tuesday (04/05/16) from Noon through 9:00 PM for Cimarron, Texas and Beaver Counties. The potential for extreme fire behavior will be present today across the Panhandle including very rapid rates of fire spread and potential for short to medium range spotting. In the warned area, temperature will climb to around 80° under sunny skies with relative humidity in the 7-12% range resulting in very receptive fine-dead fuels in the 2-4% range with Probability of Ignition from a firebrand at 90-100%. Southwest winds 20-35 mph with potential gusts 40-50 mph will result in very rapid rates of fire spread in excess of 300 ft./min. in grass dominated fuels in the area.

A Fire Weather Watch has been issued for a significant section of western Oklahoma for Tuesday (04/05/16) with an upgrade to Red Flag Warning anticipated. Counties in northwest and western Oklahoma will likely experience south to southwest winds sustained 20-40 mph gusting 30-55 mph along with an abrupt wind shift in the evening that may complicate suppression actions on any going fire. Fuels will be very receptive with the potential for extreme rates of fire spread and spotting potential with temperatures ranging 80°-90° and relative humidity values in the 10-20% range driving fine-dead fuels into the 3-5% range.

Resources:

- OFS will have Task Force Resources and Overhead Personnel available.
- Fixed-Wing Tanker, Air-Attack and National Guard Rotor-Wing aircraft available.

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

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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