

Fire Situation Report – April 6, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 04/05/16 thru 04/06/16

NE Area – 6 fires burned 437 acres (Causes: 3-Incendiary; 3-Escaped Prescribed Burns)

EC Area – 1 fire burned 454 acres (Cause: Incendiary)

SE Area – 0 fires

* 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 04/05/16 thru 04/06/16

2 fires burned 84.1 acres (Causes: 2-Escaped Debris Burning; 1-Miscellaneous) Reporting Departments: Guymon, Roosevelt, and Tecumseh

** - 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: Numerous large fires occurred across Oklahoma yesterday during extreme fire weather conditions. Competition for suppression resources was high as many of the wildfires were difficult to control due to extreme fire behavior. Some rain is occurring over far northeast Oklahoma. However, this moisture is light and will have a very short term effect on reducing fire danger.

Oklahoma Forestry Service established a statewide area command in Oklahoma City to prioritize the allocation of state and federal resources. State and Federal aircraft are prepositioned across the state to support on-going and emerging incidents. Additional wildland fire suppression resources have been ordered from the Southern Forest Fire Compact to assist with on-going incidents.

Two large fires occurred in the OFS Fire Protection Area yesterday:

Pound Valley (Pittsburg County) – Oklahoma Forestry Services East Central Area firefighters suppressed this fire yesterday that burned 454 acres eighteen miles south of McAlester. The cause of the fire has been listed as incendiary.

Hoot Owl (Mayes County) – Oklahoma Forestry Services' Northeast Area committed three Type 6 Engines and two Type 3 Dozers to this wildfire that burned in steep, rugged terrain four miles north of Salina. This incendiary-caused wildfire burned 300 acres and is 100% contained.

A brief synopsis of wildfires receiving State support is as follows:

350 Complex (Woodward and Harper Counties) – An Oklahoma Forestry Services Type 3 Incident Management Team is in unified command with Woodward Fire Department. A Type 2 Incident Management Team has been ordered. Extreme fire behavior, long range spotting and rapid rates of spread contributed to resistance to control. Numerous County Wildland Task Forces and Oklahoma Forestry Services are committed to this incident. Five fixed wing Airtankers and Air Attack were committed to this fire yesterday until sunset. Aerial mapping of the incident was completed this morning. As of 0900 this morning, 55,308 acres have burned. The fire started approximately six miles north of Woodward and the cause of the fire was due to arcing power lines.

Meridian Fire (Logan County) - An Oklahoma Forestry Services (OFS) Task Force and numerous fire departments were committed to this incident that burned approximately 600 acres eight miles north of Luther. Two Oklahoma Army National Guard Blackhawk Helicopters equipped with 660 gallon buckets were committed to the incident. The OFS Task Force will continue to mop up and secure this incident throughout today's operational period. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Olive Fire (Creek County) – Olive Fire Department, Drumright Fire Department and numerous fire departments were committed to this incident that burned 240 acres approximately five miles northwest of Bristow. An Oklahoma Army National Guard Blackhawk equipped with a 660-gallon bucket was committed to this incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

A Red Flag Warning is in effect for a large portion of Oklahoma from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. today. In and near the Warned area expect relative humidity readings to drop into the single digits to upper teens. North to northwest winds are forecast in the 15-30 mph range with 30-40 mph wind gusts possible. Temperatures are forecast to reach into the 70-80 degree range. **Any on-going fire or new fire starting today in and near the Warned area has the potential to burn with extreme rates of spread and erratic fire behavior.**

For more information concerning today's Red Flag Warning, click on the following link:

<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/oun/> or <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/tsa/>

SPECIAL NOTE TO FIREFIGHTERS: County Wildland Task Forces should anticipate mobilization today to on-going or emerging incidents.

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Outdoor burning of any kind over the next few days is strongly discouraged in all but far southeastern Oklahoma.

Four County Burn Bans are currently in effect: Harper, Beaver, Texas, and Cimarron. 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).



Prepared by: Mark Goeller, Assistant Director, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services