

Fire Situation Report – July 31, 2015

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 04/24/15 thru 07/31/15

NE Area – 3 Fires Burned 12 Acres (2-Incendiary, 1-Escaped Debris)

EC Area – 1 Fire Burned 30 Acres (1-Escaped Debris)

SE Area – 24 Fires Burned 329.8 Acres (14-Incendiary, 3-Escaped Debris, 7-Equipment)

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

No Activity

Large Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

No Activity

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity:

3 Fires Treating 187 Acres

* 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 04/24/15 thru 07/31/15

21 Fires Burned 127.85 Acres (2-Incendiary, 7-Escaped Debris, 3-Equipment, 3-Fireworks, 6-Miscellaneous)

(Departments Reporting Include: Skiatook, Headrick, Roosevelt, Blair, Indianhoma, Tecumseh, Keystone, Guymon and Cordell)

** - 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:

The rainfall in May and June contributed significantly to reducing overall fire danger thus far over the summer season in Oklahoma. Dramatic improvement in many of the drought indices, filled reservoirs across the state and a vigorous growing season has limited fire potential. With summer heat continuing, a few areas of the state are beginning to dry down enough to support fire activity.

Areas of showers are presently moving across the state and rain chances for the majority of Oklahoma will be present off and on in the week to come. Localities that do not experience a wetting rain, especially in southeast Oklahoma and portions of the extreme southwest counties, may begin to experience more frequent ignitions. KBDI (Keetch-Byram Drought Index) is beginning to build in these areas and has proven to be a contributing factor for determining fire severity in much of Oklahoma.

Live fuel moisture levels are adequate and will limit spread component presently; however they will begin to slowly decrease as new growth matures through the remainder of the growing season. 1,000 hr. (3-8" dia.) fuel moisture levels still show long term drought impacts and remain at or near critical thresholds.

In summary, no critical fire control issues are anticipated as we enter August, but areas that do not receive a wetting rain in (especially those highlighted above) may begin to experience increased fire activity. The next planned update to the Oklahoma Wildfire Situation Report will be August 7, 2015 unless activity or fire danger merit otherwise.

Special Note To Firefighters:

Earlier this month, the fourth edition of the "Oklahoma Wildland Tailgate" was released and is focused on Expanding Incidents. This edition looks at some of the elements of preparedness and actions to be taken that will assist incident commanders and other responders to prepare for a safe and successful when transition from initial attack to extended attack. Fire personnel are encouraged to take a few minutes to work through the lesson in their operational groups as well as reinforce their skills both personally and as a unit with the "On The Fireground" exercise.

To access current editions of the Oklahoma Wildland Tailgate or sign-up for email notifications of new issues visit:

www.forestry.ok.gov/tailgate

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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