

Fire Situation Report – October 21, 2015

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 10/20/15 thru 10/21/15

NE Area – 3 Fires Burned 32 Acres (Cause: 3-Incendiary)

EC Area – 5 Fires Burned 1,604 acres (Cause: 3-Incendiary, 2-Escaped Control Burn)

SE Area – 12 Fires Burned 79.1 Acres (Cause: 9-Incendiary, 1-Debris, 2-Equipment)

- Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:
 - Long Lake Fire (Latimer County) – 300 acres (100% Contained)
 - Bull of the Woods Fire (LeFlore County) – 1,161 acres (90% Contained)
- Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area: **No Activity**
- 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 10/20/15 thru 10/21/15

No new activity reported in the online system; however it is noted that fire activity was reported in local media coverage.

** - 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:

Dry conditions are expected to persist today across much of eastern Oklahoma. Elevated dew points and building sky cover will limit relative humidity from falling into critical values this afternoon; however the extended dry period will still present dry fuels across all size classes. Rain moving through the Panhandle and showers in parts of western Oklahoma are the prelude to expanding rain chances across the state later this week.

The highest fire danger, albeit somewhat moderated by increased relative humidity, will be present generally east of I-35. Temperatures will again be in the low 80's today with south winds around 10 mph this afternoon. Relative humidity values this afternoon may struggle to fall below 40% limiting how dry find-dead fuels will be this afternoon. Much of eastern Oklahoma has experienced a 30-40 day departure from wetting rains depleting live fuel moistures and exacerbating upper level soil moistures. Fuel moisture, across the size classes remain very low (critically low in many cases).

Rains will be welcomed for sure! Given the present fuel moisture regime, we can anticipate only a short term respite from fire danger. Herbaceous fuels are quickly curing and will require only a couple of drying days to promote active fire behavior. Large diameter fuels in the 3"-8" size class (1,000 hr. fuels) are presently registering 5-8% across the majority of the state and will require long periods of wetting to recover. If in fact the rains do provide a welcomed soaking, we are recommending that fire personnel take advantage of the opportunity to check equipment for needed repairs and maintenance, review wildfire tactics and safety, and rest up.

County Burn Bans have been authorized by the commissioners of the following counties: Choctaw, LeFlore and McCurtain Counties. Information on current county level burn bans can be obtained at:

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information>

Special Note to Firefighters and Public:

It was reported that a Drone (Unmanned Aircraft System) was flying over a wildfire yesterday in Oklahoma. Drones in the air space around a wildfire will prohibit firefighting aircraft from engaging in fireline operations. Private aircraft in the vicinity of any incident pose a safety threat to incident personnel and limit fire suppression tactics. Those limitations place more lives and property in jeopardy. If you fly, we can't!

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: Drew Daily, Fire Staff Forester, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services

