

Fire Situation Report – July 18, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services

PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 07/13/16 thru 07/18/16

NE Area – No Activity
EC Area – No Activity
SE Area – 9 Fires Burned 51.8 Acres (Cause: 5-Incendiary, 2-Equipment, 1-Lightning, 1-Escaped Campfire)

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

No New Activity

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

No New 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 07/13/16 thru 07/18/16

No Activity Reported

*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: Hot and humid conditions will dominate over much of Oklahoma early in the week. Drier conditions are expected over western Oklahoma later in the week. Far southeast Oklahoma is experiencing a building rainfall deficit evidenced by rising KBDI values and gradually increasing Energy Release Component.

Precipitation was realized over portions of the far western Panhandle during the overnight and early morning hours. There are slight chances of isolated afternoon showers are present in southeast Oklahoma during the first part of the week. Elevated dewpoints will drive the potential for challenging heat indexes, but will also boost afternoon relative humidity. The higher humidity readings will keep fine-dead fuel moisture well above critical values. High fuel moisture will continue to retard fire behavior including rate of spread in the live woody and herbaceous fuel categories. Successful initial attack is expected through the week and fire danger ratings higher than a general "low" categorization will only occur in isolated pockets overall.

Afternoon relative humidity values will generally remain above 35% across Oklahoma. However, the 30-35% range will be present in the far western counties early in the week and potentially fall below 30% mid-week for brief periods in the afternoons. Drier air and lower relative humidity is expected in the Panhandle. General winds are expected to be slightly over 15 mph through the week. Some gusts in excess of 20 mph may be present across western counties. In southeast Oklahoma outflow winds from stray pop-up storms are a potential threat to any going fire. Again, live fuel moisture is expected to moderate overall fire behavior.

No Burn Bans are presently active. For the most current information on Burn Bans click on the following link: <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information>

Special Note to Firefighters:

Hydration- With temperatures expected to be in the upper 90°s and low 100°s this week, it will be critical for firefighters to maintain adequate hydration in preparation for potential firefighting activities. Waiting until actively engaged on the fireground to consider hydration is too late and you are putting yourself at risk of dehydration and heat related illness. Please take a few moments to consider the following:

- Before work on the fireline you should drink extra fluids to prepare for the heat. Drink 1 or 2 cups of water, juice, or a sport drink before duty in the morning. Continue to drink regularly throughout the day.
- While working on the fireline drink at least 1 quart of fluid per hour. Drink as much as you can during any breaks. Water is your greatest need during work in the heat.
- After work the fireline, it is important to continue drinking to replace fluid losses. Thirst always underestimates fluid needs, so you should drink more than you think you need.

Monitor yourself and those with you on the fireline:

- You can assess your hydration by observing the volume, color, and concentration of your urine. Low volumes of dark, concentrated urine or painful urination indicate a serious need for rehydration. Other signs of dehydration include a rapid heart rate, weakness, excessive fatigue, and dizziness.
- Rapid loss of several pounds of body weight is a certain sign of dehydration. Rehydrate before returning to the fireline; continuing to work in a dehydrated state can lead to serious consequences, including heat stroke, muscle breakdown, and kidney failure.
- If you or those on the fireline around you are exhibiting signs of dehydration or heat stress, get into a cool location such as an air conditioned vehicle and begin to hydrate immediately.

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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