

Fire Situation Report – March 21, 2016

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Oklahoma Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/18/16 thru 03/21/16

NE Area – 2 Fires Burned 13 Acres (Cause: 2-Incendiary)

EC Area – No Activity

SE Area – No Activity

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: 1 Rx Fire Treating 413 Acres (Latimer County)

* 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 03/18/16 thru 03/21/16

- 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: A Red Flag Warning is in effect for 24 counties in northeast and western Oklahoma from 1:00 PM through 8:00 PM including: Harper, Woods, Ellis, Woodward, Roger Mills, Dewey, Beckham, Harmon, Greer and Jackson in western Oklahoma and Osage, Washington, Nowata, Craig, Ottawa, Pawnee, Tulsa, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Creek, Okfuskee, Okmulgee and Wagoner in northeast Oklahoma. The warned area is expected to experience rapidly increasing fire danger today as weather conditions promote very dry fine-fuels and potential for extreme rates of fire spread. Temperature today will be in the mid to upper 70°s under clear skies with relative humidity values 15-20%. Winds will be south 20-25 mph with gusts near 35-40 mph.

Successive freeze events across much of northern and western Oklahoma have stalled seasonal green up, and ample dormant fine fuel coupled with minimal leaf out in many areas holds fuel readily available for combustion. Fire danger today is not limited only to the warned areas as fire weather will be present throughout the state today with increasing intensity generally from east to west. Outside of the warned areas temperatures will be in the mid to upper 60°s with relative humidity values diving below 30% in most areas. Winds will be south 15-23 mph gusting to near 30 mph at times excluding areas of south-central and southeast Oklahoma.

Fire danger will continue to build into Wednesday as strong southerly winds, warm temperatures and dry air climax Wednesday with an approaching cold front. As such, a Fire Weather Watch is in place for the majority of Oklahoma north and west of a line from Delaware to Jefferson Counties through Wednesday evening.

Resources:

- OFS will have Task Force Resources prepositioned in central and western Oklahoma.
- Fixed-Wing Tanker and National Guard Rotor-Wing aircraft available.
- County Wildland Task Force resources.

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

Special Note to Firefighters:

- County Wildland Task Force resources should be prepared for mobilization.

Harper and Cimarron 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).

Prepared by: Drew Daily, Fire Staff Forester, Oklahoma Forestry Services - ODAFF

