



Fire Situation Report – April 26, 2024

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry



OFS STATISTICS for April 25, 2024

OFS Preparedness Level: 1 – **2** – 3 – 4 – 5

NE Area –
EC Area – No New Activity
SE Area –

Large / Significant Fire Activity within the OFS Protection Area: No New Activity
Fire Activity with OFS Response outside of the Protection Area: No New Activity
OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: No New Activity
Fire Department Activity: Light Initial Attack

Statewide Discussion: As storms continue to move out of central Oklahoma into eastern Oklahoma this morning, much drier air will filter in behind the system as the dryline sets up near the I-35 corridor late this afternoon. Rain and and/or herbaceous greenness will mitigate most of the fire danger concern in central Oklahoma and much of the west while the northwest missed out on appreciable rainfall. Elevated fire weather in the Panhandle and northwestern counties will pose high fire danger this afternoon although initial attack activity will likely be successful noting that large fire potential remains on the landscape. The dryline retreats to near the 100th Meridian overnight and holds in place through the day on Saturday holding elevated to near-critical fire weather in the Panhandle counties.

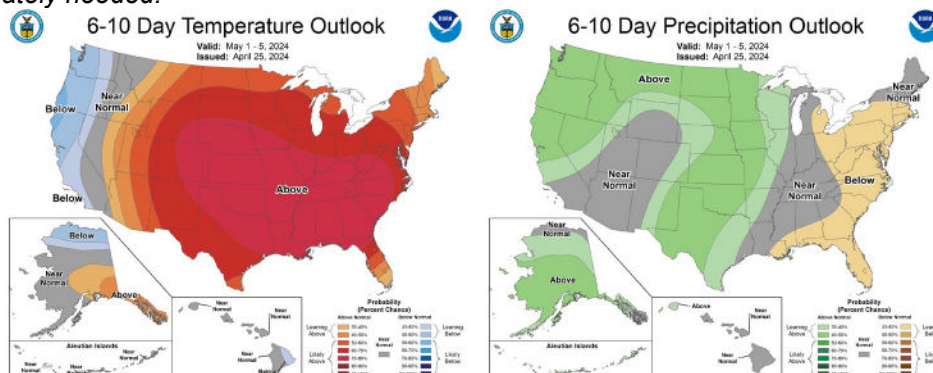
Today: The highest fire danger indices today will again be in the Oklahoma Panhandle and far northwest while drier air pushes further east behind the storms that continue to move across the state. In this area, Energy Release Component values, serving as an indicator of composite fuel moisture, have improved in recent days given very good overnight moisture recovery resulting decreased resistance to control. Suppression difficulty will still be a factor on any going fire given the above-normal fuel loading, but significant fire potential is downgraded from weeks previous and initial attack activity will largely be successful.

Oklahoma Panhandle/Far Northwest Oklahoma: Following moderate moisture recovery (and a few isolated showers), the dryline will push across the area by early afternoon. Temperature 80°-86° under clear skies with relative humidity values late afternoon at 11-17% will yield fine-dead fuel moisture at 3%. Southwest winds 12-17 mph with some higher gusts will support moderate to rapid rates of fire spread. Rangeland fuels will exhibit head fire rates of spread 129-189 ft/min with flame lengths +/- 13 ft. Conditions moderate overnight providing good initial attack opportunity.

Saturday: The dryline will retreat to near the 100th Meridian (OK/TX) border overnight holding in place through Saturday. While low probabilities of rainfall exist in the Panhandle counties – west of the dryline- elevated to near-critical fire weather will be the order of the day. Temperature in the mid-70°s (western PH) to 84° (eastern PH) under some scattered clouds with relative humidity values settling in at 11-15% will yield receptive fine fuels at 3%. Southerly winds sustained 21-26 mph with some gusts topping 40 mph will present potential for rapidly moving wildfires. In the denser rangeland fuels, head fire rates of spread +/- 210 ft/min (2.3 mph) and flame lengths +/-14 ft. should be anticipated.

Storm chances dominate the forecast headlines for the bulk of the state on Saturday lingering into Sunday when there is heavy rainfall potential in central and eastern Oklahoma. While the highest fire danger indices remain in the Panhandle, limited fire danger concern remains in northwestern Oklahoma especially across Harper and Woods Counties. Otherwise fire danger concern diminishes heading south and east.

Near-Term: Following this weekend, fire danger in the northwest relaxes a bit early in the week before unsettled weather moves into Oklahoma again by Wednesday affording some rain chances. The current 6-10 Day outlooks hold above normal temperature in place but do indicate some opportunity for above normal precipitation chances. This will be welcomed in the northwest where wetting rains are desperately needed.



County Burn Bans: No County Burn Bans enacted at this time. Click [HERE](#) for the most current burn ban information.

