

# Fire Situation Report – January 5, 2021

## Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

### PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS January 4, 2020 through January 5, 2021

NE Area –

EC Area – No New Activity

SE Area –

Large / Significant Fire Activity within the 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 STATISTICS from [www.firereporting.ok.gov](http://www.firereporting.ok.gov) reported January 4-January 5, 2021

- **Light Initial Attack Activity with Reporting Ongoing**
- **7 Fires Burned 18.5 Acres**

**Statewide Discussion:** Elevated fire weather in the pre-frontal fire environment will present increased fire danger this afternoon where the highest fire danger indices will reside in the Oklahoma Panhandle and extreme northwestern Oklahoma. While fuels will be receptive supporting potential for wind-driven fire progression, resistance to control is not expected to be much of a factor providing good opportunity for successful initial attack efforts. Elsewhere in Oklahoma, fire weather and fuels metrics suggest limited fuel receptiveness and subdued fire behavior.

**Today:** The highest fire danger indices will reside in the Oklahoma Panhandle and extreme northwestern Oklahoma with limited potential for large fire occurrence in the pre-frontal fire environment. The approaching cold front is forecasted to progress across the Panhandle counties this afternoon and into northwest Oklahoma around sunset. Ahead of the front, warm-for-season temperatures, dry conditions and increasing southwest winds will present a protracted period of elevated fire danger. Large fire potential is limited. Across the bulk of the state, improved composite fuel moisture indices and lack of alignment in fire weather inputs will support low to moderate fire danger indices briefly this afternoon noting that some locations where heavier snow accumulations occurred during the holiday will experience minimal fire danger.

- **Panhandle/NW Oklahoma:** Fire danger will develop earliest in Cimarron County where marginal overnight moisture recovery will facilitate more rapid development of receptive fuels. Above normal temperatures 55°-65° and relative humidity values 17% (Cimarron County) to 27% (Harper County) under partly-cloudy skies will yield fine-dead fuel moisture values at 6% across the area with some localized 5% observations in the western Panhandle. South to southwest winds sustained 15-23 mph with some gusts during peak burning conditions 25-30 mph will support head fire rates of spread 200-230 ft./min. and flame lengths 12-16 ft. in uniform grass fuels where grazing/haying has been absent. Short grass will exhibit rates of spread more on the order of 130 ft./min with flame lengths around 8 ft. Wind direction will shift to the west then northwest with passage of the cold front. Current forecasts indicate that the shift in winds will occur early afternoon in the western Panhandle and nearer sunset in northwest Oklahoma.

**Wednesday:** Good overnight moisture recovery west and developing rain chances east will serve to hold fire danger at bay across much of Oklahoma noting that moderate fire danger indices will continue in the Panhandle and extreme northwest counties. No significant fire weather or worrisome fuels indices are expected which will serve to confine fire danger to a brief period during the afternoon.

**Near Term Outlook:** No significant fire weather or fuels concerns are present given current indices. The best opportunity for precipitation associated with the cold front today resides in eastern Oklahoma, and somewhat more widespread chances of precipitation arrive this weekend.

### **Burn Bans: None**

\*\*Refer to <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-info> for the most current burn ban information and links to specific burn ban proclamations.

