

Fire Situation Report – January 15, 2021

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS January 13, 2020 through January 14, 2021

NE Area – 1 Fire Burned 60 Acres (Cause: 1-Incendiary)

EC Area – No New Activity

SE Area – 2 Fires Burned 16.25 Acres (Cause: 2-Incendiary)

Large / Significant Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

No New Activity

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside of the Protection Area:

1 Fire Burned 8 Acres

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity:

No New Activity

FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS from www.firereporting.ok.gov reported January 13-January 14, 2021

- Moderate Initial Attack Activity Observed w/Reporting Ongoing
- 2 Fires Burned 116 Acres

Statewide Discussion: Very strong winds continuing today and dry conditions over dormant fuels compounded by the strength of drying yesterday will drive more widespread, higher fire danger indices across Oklahoma. Red Flag Warning issued for counties in southwestern Oklahoma, High Wind Warning in northwestern Oklahoma and a Wind Advisory statewide reflect the strength of the wind field and fuels drying that intensified the fire environment today. Much calmer winds, comparatively, are forecasted for the weekend and some chances of precipitation developing next week are set to lessen the threat of fire danger to some extent.

Today: A Red Flag Warning has been issued for seven counties in Southwestern Oklahoma along with a Wind Warning in place for northwestern Oklahoma and a statewide Wind Advisory. Dry and windy conditions set the stage for challenging firefighting conditions although the current fuel moisture regime supports respectable opportunity for successful initial attack efforts noting that some large fire occurrence is expected. Probability for significant fire occurrence is limited. Skies are expected to be clear across most of the state although developing sky cover in northeast and parts of eastern Oklahoma will serve to moderate fine-dead fuel moisture and receptiveness later this afternoon.



- **Southwestern Oklahoma:** A Red Flag Warning has been issued for seven counties in southwestern Oklahoma where temperatures 50°-53° and afternoon relative humidity values 12-20% under clear skies will generate very receptive fine fuels at 5% with some sites tapping 4%. Northwest winds sustained around 30 mph with gusts topping 40 mph occasionally will support rapid rates of spread in continuous grass fuels. Much of the area has been in the grips of drought through the last year limiting herbaceous fuel loading, but head fire rates of fire spread on established wildfires in untouched fuels will exhibit 270-320 ft./min (+/- 3.1 mph) and flame lengths 16-23 ft. In grazed/hayed areas ROS will be 142-207 ft./min. with head fire flame lengths 6-8 ft.
- **Northwestern/Western Oklahoma and eastern Oklahoma Panhandle:** Temperatures 42°-48° and afternoon relative humidity values 17-26% under clearing skies will yield fine-dead fuel moisture values at 5-6%. Northwest winds sustained 25-35 mph with gusts 40-55 mph will drive rapid rates of fire spread during peak burning conditions on any established wildfire. Grass dominated fuels where grazing and haying has been absent, head fire rates of spread 228-321 ft./min. (+/- 3.0 mph) and flame lengths 15-20 ft. Grazed fuels will exhibit ROS 117-245 ft./min tapping the wind limit with flame lengths 8-15 ft. Probability of Ignition remains around 50% with short range spotting likely.
- **Northern and Central Oklahoma:** Temperatures 42°-52° with afternoon relative humidity values 24-32% will yield fine-dead fuel moisture values 6-7% noting that some sky cover may develop north serving to stall 1-hour fuel moisture. Northwest winds sustained 25-35 mph gusting in excess of 40 mph at times. Grass dominated fuels will exhibit head fire rates of spread 215-310 ft./min. (+/- 2.7 mph) with flame lengths 15-23 ft. NOTE: Heavy fuel loading in the northern counties are likely to exhibit rates of spread 260-327 ft./min. on fires that are established. Timber fuels will exhibit moderated fire behavior offering opportunity to contain fires.
- **Eastern Oklahoma:** A few areas may see morning flurries north, although more notable is the opportunity for sky cover to remain in place in northeast, northern and eastern counties which with that shading limiting 1-hour fuel moisture from tapping critical values. Temperatures 40°-49° and relative humidity values 25%(SE) to 45%(NE) will yield fine-dead fuel moisture values at 7%-9%. The higher fire danger indices will be present in east-central and southeastern Oklahoma. Rates of fire spread in grass dominated fuels 187-276 ft./min. and flame lengths 12-18 ft. The upper end of this fire behavior prediction is reserved for areas where sky cover dissipates later this morning. Timber fuels will exhibit head fire rates of spread 12-39 ft./min. with flame lengths 4-8 ft.

Weekend: Dry conditions continue into the weekend although winds will relax substantially following sunset this evening. Saturday will bring temperatures in the 40°s and low 50°s with relative humidity values dipping below 25% in much of the western half of the state. Winds will continue to out of the northwest primarily, although sustained winds 8-12 mph with limited gusts will present much less opportunity for rapid rates of fire spread and very good opportunity for successful initial attack.

Resources Available: (Resource Hotline: (800) 800-2481

- OFS Task Force – Woodward
- OEM staffed in support

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.**

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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