Fire Situation Report – April 23, 2023
Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

OFS STATISTICS for April 20, 2023

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

NE Area – 8 Fires Burned 771.3 Acres (Cause: 1-Escaped Debris, 7-Incendiary)
EC Area – No New Activity
SE Area – No New Activity

Large / Significant Fire Activity within the OFS Protection Area:
- Highline 2 Fire (Cherokee County) – 332 Acres / 99% Contained
- Aggie Flats Fire (Cherokee County) – 105 Acres / 90% Contained
- Grey Squirrel Hollow Fire (Adair County) – 250 (est) Acres / 90% Contained

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: A much needed pattern change through the week ahead is in the forecast holding promise of solidly wetting rains statewide. Wildland fire activity continued through the weekend as prescribed/controlled burning was in play ahead of a wetter forecast. Initial attack activity also continued with a few large fires developing although no significant activity was noted.

Near-Term: Rain chances are in the forecast everyday this week and widespread wetting amounts are likely given the current forecast outputs. Fire danger is expected to take a back seat to rain, storm and some flooding potential taking the headlines. Scattered showers later today and increasing lower-level moisture will boost probability of rainfall overnight. Both Tuesday and Wednesday hold solid rain chances with nearly statewide potential for 1.0” plus amounts and some heavy amounts in parts of northern and eastern Oklahoma. Northwest of I-44 is where extreme (D3) and exceptional (D4) drought is entrenched is expected to see some relief thankfully noting that it has been 237 days (+/- 8 months) since parts of the Oklahoma Panhandle has received a wetting event greater than 0.25”. While drought elimination is unlikely, this is welcomed news. Obviously, drought recovery will be a much longer process, but a boost in upper-level soil moisture will settle the soil from blowing and spur some green up in the days to come. And with the rain chances spread over the next few days, the duration of the event will offer improvement in composite dead-fuel moisture.

Following this seven-day period, forecast trends point to somewhat below-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation chances. No concerning fire danger is expected in the days immediately following this forecast period offering opportunity to assess the effects of the rainfall on fuels – live fuel moisture improvements and potentially a boost in composite dead fuel moisture. Peering out a bit further, the 30-Day outlooks hold a return to warmer temperatures and equal chances (or normal) precipitation potential.

Burn Bans: Refer to: https://ag.ok.gov/divisions/forestry-services/ for the most current burn ban information and links to specific burn ban proclamations.

**County issued burn ban status is expected to change through the week. Please refer to the website above as it will be updated as information is received from the counties.