



# Fire Situation Report – April 17, 2024

## Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry



OFS STATISTICS for April 15, 2024

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

NE Area – 1 Fire Burned 62 Acres (Cause: 1-Escaped Control Burn)  
EC Area – No New Activity  
SE Area – No New Activity

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:** A break from the strong winds today ahead of a cold front creeping into northwest Oklahoma tomorrow morning will limit fire size potential. Behind this front, cooler temperatures will begin to overspread Oklahoma before rain/storm chances develop in southeastern Oklahoma. Rain chances do improve for eastern Oklahoma Thursday. Rain/storm chances enter the forecast again with more widespread opportunity although the highest probabilities target the southern half of the state. While fire weather relaxes over the next few days, potential rainfall amounts through the weekend in the parched northwest do not look overly promising. Large fire potential also relaxes through the weekend and initial attack efforts are expected to be successful.

**Today:** Calm winds and very good overnight moisture recovery will stall development of active burning conditions today. Winds are expected remain rather calm, for April, through the day limiting fire spread potential affording good initial attack opportunities. Elevated dew point temperature generally east of US 81 will hold afternoon relative humidity values in central and eastern Oklahoma above 30%. Further west, dry air will again push into the Panhandle and western tier counties supporting continued initial attack activity. Calmer winds today, well calm for April on the Plains, will limit fire spread potential limiting large fire potential in the northwest and western counties.

**Oklahoma Panhandle/Northwest Oklahoma:** Temperature 82°-88° under clear skies with relative humidity values tapping 10-22% will support receptive fine-dead fuels at 3% across most of the area holding initial attack potential elevated. Large fire potential will be limited with comparatively lighter southerly winds sustained 9-14 mph with some higher gusts. Rangeland fuels will support head fire rates of spread 70-120 ft/min and flame lengths +/-9 ft. Respectable overnight moisture recovery is again expected ahead of a cold front entering the area tomorrow morning.

**Western-tier Counties:** Dry air will flex into the area this afternoon as temperature warms into the 85°-90° range under mostly-clear skies. Relative humidity values will fall into the 14-22% range supporting 3-4% fine-dead fuel moisture observations. Southerly winds sustained 8-13 mph with some higher gusts will hold rates of spread to less than 100 ft/min affording very good initial attack opportunities.

**Near-Term:** A cold front will enter the Panhandle and northwestern counties tomorrow morning. Rain chances with this frontal passage are relegated to southeastern and eastern Oklahoma. More widespread rain chances develop Friday evening through the weekend although wetting amounts are generally expected to occur along and south of I-44. No critical fire weather is expected through the weekend and while large fire potential is limited and significant fire potential very-low, initial attack activity is expected to continue with highest frequency in the northwestern counties.

The next update to the OFS Wildfire Situation Report will occur on Monday, April 22 unless fire weather or wildfire occurrence merits otherwise.

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