

Fire Situation Report – January 4, 2021

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS December 24, 2020 through January 4, 2021

NE Area – 9 Fires Burned 114.4 Acres (6-Incendiary, 2-Escaped Debris, 1-Electrical)
EC Area – 8 Fires Burned 367.8 Acres (3-Escaped Debris, 4-Incendiary, 1-Escaped Control Burn)
SE Area – 25 Fires Burned 389.5 Acres (5-Escaped Debris, 19-Incendiary, 5-Escaped Debris, 1-Misc.)

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 recorded on January 4, 2021 (12/24/20-01/04/21)

- **Moderate Initial Attack Activity with Reporting Ongoing**

Statewide Discussion: Elevated fire weather is expected Tuesday in the Oklahoma Panhandle edging into northwestern Oklahoma as a frontal boundary slides into the area. Composite fuel moisture has relaxed to some extent, below the 70th percentile in this area, limiting the threat for large and/or significant fire occurrence although wind-driven runs are likely given uniform fuels. Water equivalent from recent winter weather events in the area have been rather unimpressive resulting in days since wetting precipitation ranging from 16-67 days across the Panhandle and extreme northwestern Oklahoma. Snowmelt continues in those areas where heavier amounts accumulated over the holidays, otherwise a boost in moisture across the body of Oklahoma has served to relax fire danger in most locations providing very good opportunity for successful initial attack.

Today: Above normal temperatures will serve to melt much of the remaining snow cover in those areas where higher amounts were realized and on the sun-sheltered northern aspects. Overall fire danger indices will remain low today with some moderate indices this afternoon in the Oklahoma Panhandle and western tier of counties along the 100th meridian. Winds will remain rather light through with a northerly component. Any fires occurring today will exhibit minimal suppression challenge, although upper-level soil moisture is likely to limit engine/equipment access in most locations.

Tuesday: An uptick in fire danger is likely to be present across the Oklahoma Panhandle and extreme northwestern Oklahoma with above normal temperatures, fine-dead fuel moisture tapping 6% in the afternoon and stout southwesterly winds that will shift to the northwest late in the burning period. Areas where uniform, heavier fuel loading are present will produce rates of spread near 200 ft./min. although most locales will observe rates of spread nearer 100-150 ft./min. on established fires. In short, wind-driven fire behavior exhibiting 'normal' resistance to control is expected.

Near Term Outlook: Following a period of elevated fire weather in the Oklahoma Panhandle on Tuesday, somewhat seasonal weather conditions are expected for the remainder of the week. Precipitation chances associated with the cold front are highest in the eastern third of the state, and current quantitative precipitation forecasts do not hold much in the way of a wetting rain. Near-term outlooks point to a return to near-normal climatology. No significant fire danger is anticipated in the short term.

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.