

Fire Situation Report – February 3, 2021

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS February 1, 2020 through February 2, 2021

NE Area – 3 Fires Burned 32 Acres (Cause: 1-Escaped Control Burn, 2-Incendiary)

EC Area – 1 Fire Burned 3 Acres (Cause: 1-Escaped Debris)

SE Area – 2 Fires Burned 14 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:

No New Activity

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity:

1 Rx Treating 80 Acres

FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS from www.firereporting.ok.gov reported February 1-February 2, 2021

- **Light Initial Attack Activity Observed**
- **2 Fires Burned 68.3 Acres**

Statewide Discussion: Dry conditions are in place ahead of an approaching cold front bringing potential for increased initial attack activity over the two days. This cold front is expected to enter the Panhandle counties early tomorrow morning moving across the state by early afternoon. While fire environment factors are not fully aligned, the cold front is expected to pass primarily dry. Another cold front is forecasted to move into Oklahoma Saturday into Sunday ushering in much cooler air. Overall, increased initial attack activity is expected along with potential for some large fire occurrence where engine and equipment tactics are limited by topography and/or fuels. Fire danger that develops for a short period this afternoon will quickly wane with sunset.

Today: Respectable overnight moisture recovery and cool temperatures will give way to afternoon high temperatures well above normal reaching the 70°s in the Oklahoma Panhandle, far western and southwestern counties and 60°s elsewhere. Afternoon relative humidity values are expected to be a little higher than yesterday afternoon with observations below 30% reserved for those areas tapping 70°. Southerly winds will gradually increase into the afternoon with gusts 20-25 mph. The highest fire danger indices will be present in the Oklahoma Panhandle and along the western tier of counties.

- **Oklahoma Panhandle:** Temperatures 71°-77° and afternoon relative humidity values 20-28% under mostly clear skies will yield very receptive fine fuels at 5%. West to southwest winds will increase through the day 12-18 mph with some gusts in excess of 20 mph west will support moderate rates of fire spread in typical grass fuels. ROS 105-160 ft./min. with head fire flame lengths around 10 ft.
- **Far Western Oklahoma:** Relative humidity values will remain above critical value at 29-36% with temperature 65°-71°. This will deliver fine-dead fuel moisture values 6-7% are expected noting that some locations may tap 5% briefly as temperatures exceed forecast. Southerly winds 10-15 mph with some gusts near 20 mph will support moderate rates of spread during peak burning conditions. ROS in typical grass fuels 97-146 ft./min. with head fire flame lengths 8-11 ft. should be expected during peak burning conditions.
- **Southeastern Oklahoma:** Parts of southeastern Oklahoma have received some moisture in recent days although wetting amounts have not occurred for 25+ days in some locations. As such fuels are receptive and may support active fire behavior. Temperatures in the low- to mid-60°s will be in place this afternoon with relative humidity values 33-40% and fine-dead fuel moisture values 7%. Southeast winds 10-15 mph with some gusts near 20 mph will yield grassland rates of spread 90-120 ft./min. and flame lengths 5-9 ft. Timber fuels ROS around 20 ft./min. with flame lengths 3-5 ft.

Thursday: The passage of the cold front is expected to be dry holding limited fire danger in place. Again, initial attack activity is expected to continue with potential for some large fire activity. Fine-dead fuel moisture values are not expected to dip into critical ranges although continued dry conditions and increasing wind speeds out of the north will support potential for rapid rates of fire spread in grass dominated fuels on established wildfires.

Near-term: Dry conditions continue on Friday with post-frontal conditions supporting afternoon relative humidity values falling below 30% across most of the state. Current forecasts hold sustained wind speeds less than 15 mph limiting spread potential from reaching concerning levels. The next cold front is expected to arrive Saturday and precipitation chances are limited with the vast majority of the Oklahoma remaining dry ahead of some colder air pushing in. Initial attack activity is expected to gradually increase into the weekend although potential for large fire occurrence is somewhat limited.

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.