

Fire Situation Report – February 4, 2021

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS February 2, 2020 through February 3, 2021

NE Area – No New Activity

EC Area – No New Activity

SE Area – 1 Fire Burned 18 Acres (Cause: 1-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:

2 Rx Fires Treating 102 Acres

FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS from www.firereporting.ok.gov reported February 2-February 3, 2021

- **Light Initial Attack Activity Observed**
- **No New Activity Reported**

Statewide Discussion: Strong and gusty winds associated with a cold front moving across Oklahoma will gradually taper off this afternoon prior to relative humidity values dropping below 25% in western Oklahoma. With the frontal boundary passage out of phase with afternoon dryness, the overall expectation is that increased initial attack activity is likely although large fire occurrence will be limited. In the wake of today's cold front a return to more normal temperatures is expected with much colder temperatures following a cold front this weekend. While fire environment indicators do not point to big concerns for problematic fire occurrence, two items are worth mention: 1) No meaningful precipitation is expected in the next seven days, and 2) Composite fuel moisture values continue to decline resulting in Energy Release Component values approaching the 70th percentile. The fuels component of the fire environment will become more receptive in coming days with building resistance to control.

Today: Winds will gust near 40 mph as the cold front passes through Oklahoma this morning gradually relaxing this afternoon. Relative humidity values are expected to fall below 25% in western Oklahoma and below 35% in much of the remainder as skies clear behind the front. Some light precipitation has occurred in parts of the Panhandle and far northwestern Oklahoma that is expected to be of little consequence to fire danger this afternoon. The highest fire danger indices today will reside west of I-35 where clearing will facilitate drier, more receptive fine fuels.

- **Western Oklahoma (W of I-35):** Following the passage of this morning's cold front, temperature will tap the upper-40^os and low-50^os coupled with relative humidity values 20-30% reserving the lower end observations for far western counties. With clearing skies, fine-dead fuel moisture values will tap 5-6% across the area. North-northwest winds this afternoon 12-18 mph with gusts 18-25 mph will support potential for rapid rates of fire spread on any wildfire that becomes established. Typical grass fuels will support head fire rates of spread 96-129 ft./min. and flame lengths 8-12 ft. Heavier grass fuel loadings have potential to exhibit ROS 190-230 ft./min. with head fire flame lengths 12-15 ft.
- **Northern/Central Oklahoma:** Skies will clear by mid-afternoon with temperature in the low- to mid-50^os and afternoon relative humidity values 27-35% resulting in fine-dead fuel moisture values 6-7%. North-northwest winds sustained 14-19 mph gusting 20-26 mph will support potential for rapid rates of fire spread in unsheltered, grass dominated fuels. Established fires will exhibit head fire rates of spread 140-200 ft./min. with flame lengths 12-18 ft. Problematic fire behavior including single tree torching is likely in brush fuels although spotting distances will be limited with probability of ignition at 50%.
- **Eastern Oklahoma:** Cloud cover will linger into early afternoon serving to stall fine-dead fuel moisture from reaching a very receptive state. With temperatures in the mid-50^os north to low 60^os south and afternoon relative humidity values 34-42%, fine-dead fuel moisture values will hover around 7% with 6% observations where clearing occurs earlier. Following the frontal passage, northwest winds sustained 13-19 mph gusting above 20 mph will drive rates of spread in open grass fuels around 150 ft./min and flame lengths 10-14 ft. Timber fuels that have been subjected to 5-10 days separation from precipitation will exhibit head fire rates of spread 19-30 ft./min. and flame lengths 3.5-6.5 ft. Problematic fire behavior will be limited although it cannot be ruled out.

Friday: Relative humidity values are expected to drop below 30% across most of Oklahoma facilitating receptive fuels. Wind speeds, however, are forecasted to be much lighter than today around 10 mph with limited gusts. So, fuels will be quite receptive with fine-dead fuel moisture values 6% across most of Oklahoma, 5% west and potentially tapping 4% in the western Panhandle counties. Initial attack activity is not expected to exhibit much in the way of resistance to control, although potential for increased initial attack activity is growing.

Near-term: A late weekend cold front is set to push well-below normal temperatures into Oklahoma next week weakening daily fire danger potential. While some precipitation chances are currently forecasted, the 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast and 6-10 Day Outlooks hold little in the way of wetting opportunity. Energy Release Component values have continued to express gradual drying indicative of increasing resistance to control. While no significant, fire-effective systems are in the near-term forecast, a close monitor is warranted with drying, dormant fuels.

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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