



Fire Situation Report – May 24, 2024

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry

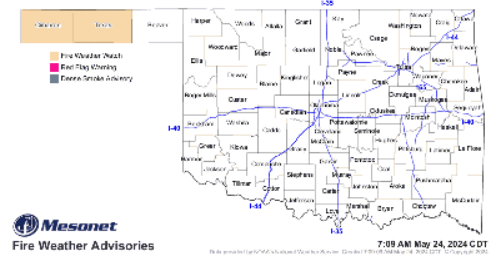


OFS STATISTICS for May10-May 23, 2024, OFS Preparedness Level: **1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5**

NE Area – No New Activity
EC Area – 1 Fire Burned 2.0 Acres (Cause: 1-Electrical)
SE Area – No New Activity

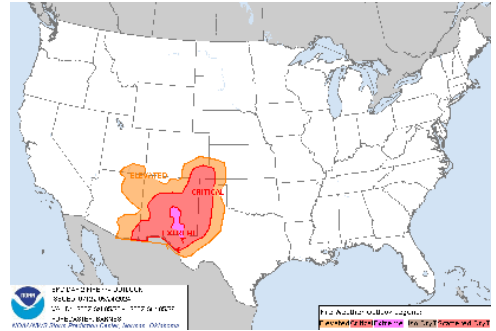
Large / Significant Fire Activity within the OFS Protection Area: No New Activity
Fire Activity with OFS Response outside of the Protection Area: No New Activity
OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: No New Activity
Fire Department Activity: Light Initial Attack

Statewide Discussion: Increased fire danger returns to the Oklahoma Panhandle as dry conditions once again dominate the area. In the Panhandle, most locations have received +/- 1" of rainfall in the last 30 days spurring some green up although separation from wetting rains now 8-20 days continue to support Abnormally Dry (D0) to Severe Drought (D2) indices across the High Plains. Very strong drying conditions yesterday boosted evapotranspiration rates priming fuels to support active fire behavior evidenced by an uptick in fire occurrence in the combined Panhandles and far western Oklahoma. A Fire Weather Watch has been issued for Cimarron and Texas Counties for tomorrow (May 25th) given warm/dry/breezy weather conditions over fuels that have minimally benefitted from rainfall over the last 30 days.

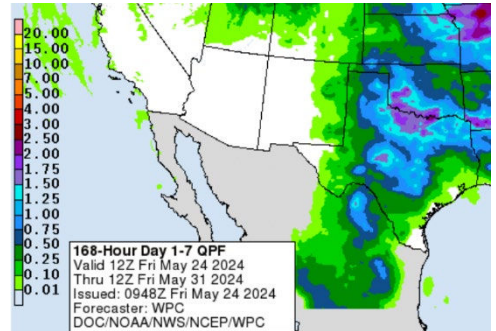


Today: Overnight moisture recovery in the Oklahoma Panhandle and far northwestern Oklahoma has been marginal as a cold front flexes in the area with north winds and cooler temperatures this morning. Cooler temperatures and relatively light north to northeast winds through the day will limit fire spread potential although relative humidity values will again drop into the teens across the area supporting another drying period today ahead likely critical fire weather tomorrow. Initial attack activity today is expected to be successful with extremely limited large fire potential.

Tomorrow (Saturday): Critical fire weather over receptive fuels is expected in the western Panhandle counties with a Red Flag Warning likely in Cimarron and Texas Counties. Overnight moisture recovery will again be marginal setting the stage for very warm/dry/breezy conditions as a dryline pushes into the area. Energy Release Component values will register around the 70th percentile indicating that resistance to control will be a factor. Initial attack activity is generally expected to be successful noting that those areas where residual heavy, dead-fuel loading remains will present large fire potential (+300 acres). With a return to southwesterly winds, temperature will register 90°-95° under mostly clear skies with relative humidity values 7-15% yielding very receptive fine-dead fuel moisture values at 3% with some localized critical observations tapping 2%. Southwest winds sustained 19-25 mph gusting 30-38 mph will support head fire rated of spread 141-167 ft/min with flame lengths 12-15 ft. Where wind is aligned with fuels and topography, ROS nearer to 200 ft/min may be observed. Conditions do moderate some with sunset although active fire behavior should be anticipated into the overnight hours as the dryline slowly retreats.



Near-Term: Fire weather concern moderates somewhat in the Oklahoma Panhandle on Sunday as a weak cold front enters the area although dry conditions remain in place. Fuels will support active fire behavior although initial attack efforts should be successful. Elsewhere in Oklahoma, rainfall has supported vigorous green-up providing an ample heat-sink affording very good initial attack success probability. The Panhandle and northwestern Oklahoma will see some rain chances next week as multiple rounds of opportunity develop. The 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast hold some optimism for quelling continued concern in the Panhandle and northwestern counties noting that current rainfall probabilities in the Tuesday through Thursday time frame max out at 30% in the Oklahoma Panhandle.



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

