

Fire Situation Report – March 14, 2017

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/13/17 thru 03/14/17

NE Area – 0 fires reported
EC Area – 0 fires reported
SE Area – 0 fires reported

Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

No Large Fires currently active within the Protection Area.

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: No Activity

* Protection Area Statistics do not reflect local fire department's fire run information. Statistics are for the ODAFF-Forestry Services' fifteen county Fire Protection Area in eastern Oklahoma unless otherwise noted in the Discussion section of this report.

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside the Protection Area:

Northwest Oklahoma Complex – This Complex is being managed under Unified Command with the Southern Region Red Team (Type 1 IMT with Mike Dueitt, Incident Commander) and Woodward, Buffalo, Laverne, Slapout, Moorland, Rosston and Beaver Fire Departments. The Complex is currently at 63% containment. Numerous OFS overhead, heavy equipment, Type 6 Engines and aircraft are assigned to the complex to assist local fire departments with the control efforts. Other state forestry resources from Arkansas, Louisiana and Kentucky have arrived and are committed to the firefighting effort. An Incident Command Post is established at the Woodward County Fairgrounds to facilitate briefings, resource assignments and ordering. Fire weather parameters increased during the previous burning period, but the fire had no additional growth. The fire area may experience “**Elevated**” or “**Near Critical**” levels on Thursday as drier air and strong winds return. Resources will continue working existing control lines and mopping-up hot spots to strengthen the fires’ perimeter. Utility companies have started to replace power poles and lines damaged by the fire. Winds yesterday whipped up dust and ash from the fire areas causing reduced visibilities on roadways. There were no changes in fire perimeters during the previous burning period.

Starbuck (Beaver and Harper County) – 662,687 acres total (464,308 acres in Kansas and 198,379 acres in Oklahoma). Near the Oklahoma communities of Buffalo, Knowles, Gate, Rosston and Laverne. Numerous residences, secondary structures, livestock and other infrastructure lost. Damage assessments are on-going.

Selman (Harper and Woodward County) – 47,289 acres, located approximately 10 miles north of Woodward. No estimate on residences or secondary structures lost. Damage assessments are on-going.

283 Fire (Harper County) – 69,395 acres, located near the communities of Rosston, Laverne and May. Damage assessments are on-going.

Beaver Fire (Beaver County) – 2,962 acres, located between Beaver and Elmwood along highway 273. Damage assessments on-going.

Cattleman Fire (Carter County) – 100 acres and 36% containment. Fire is located 5-miles north of Wilson. Dillard Fire Department responded. Fire is burning in grass, brush and timber. Suppression response included 12-engines, 4-water tenders and a dozer/grader. Oklahoma Forestry Services dispatched a Chinook helicopter to assist.

Statewide Discussion: The highest fire danger today remains in the Panhandle and portions of western and northern Oklahoma. Cooler temperatures, good nighttime humidity recovery and increased daytime relative humidity values should help moderate fire behavior over most of the area through Wednesday. However, predicted strong winds and lower humidity may usher in “**Elevated**” or “**Near Critical**” fire weather conditions for Thursday. Lower temperatures, higher relative humidity and reduced winds conditions are aiding in mop-up of existing fires and improved initial attack on new fires. Light rain was detected in southern and southeastern counties, but was generally less than a tenth of an inch. Green-up is progressing in the eastern one-half of the state with leaf-out approaching 25% and annual grasses starting new growth.

Expect any fire that starts today to burn with low to moderate intensities and rates of spread. Highest spread rates will be experienced where terrain and winds align. Good nighttime humidity recovery and cooler temperatures will shorten the burning period.

Resources: To request assistance, call the Resource Hotline (800) 800-2481

- OFS Engine/Dozer Task Forces on stand-by
- National Guard Helicopter available, but limited
- County Wildland Task Force Resources should assess availability for mobilization

Numerous County Burn Bans are in effect. For the most current information on Burn Bans click on the following link:
<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information>

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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