

# Fire Situation Report – March 15, 2017

## Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry - Forestry Services



### PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS\* for Reporting Period 0800 thru 0800, 03/14/17 thru 03/15/17

NE Area – 0 fires reported  
EC Area – 0 fires reported  
SE Area – 3 fire burned 218 acres (Cause: 1-Debris 10 acres, 2-Incendiary 208 acres)

#### Large Fire Activity within the Protection Area:

**North Farris Road Fire (Atoka County) – 205 acres, fire .2-miles NE of Farris, 60% containment**

#### 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 74% 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, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana and Tennessee 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. The fire area may experience “Elevated” or “Near Critical” fire danger levels on Thursday, Friday and perhaps into next week as higher temperatures, 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. 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.

**Lighthouse Fire (Carter County)** – 13 acres and 30% containment. Fire is located 3-miles south of Milo. Sneed Fire Department responded with three (3) engines. Fire is burning in grass, brush and timber. Oklahoma Forestry Services dispatched two (2) personnel and a Chinook helicopter to assist.

**Statewide Discussion:** The highest fire danger today remains in the Panhandle and portions of western Oklahoma. Stronger southerly winds are predicted for today, but humidity values should remain near 40%. The higher humidity should help mitigate the winds somewhat. However, predicted strong winds and lower humidity may usher in “Elevated” or “Near Critical” fire weather conditions for Thursday and Friday. 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 moderate intensities and rates of spread. Highest spread rates will be experienced where terrain and winds align. Good nighttime humidity recovery coupled with elevated daytime humidity values should help 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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