

Fire Situation Report – September 23, 2021

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry



PROTECTION AREA STATISTICS for September 20-22, 2021

NE Area – 2 Fires Burned 68 Acres (Cause: 2-Incendiary)

EC Area – 5 Fires Burned 289.8 Acres (Cause: 1-Lightning, 2-Equipment, 2-Incendiary)

SE Area – 8 Fires Burned 19.1 Acres (Cause: 2-Esc. Debris, 1-Equipment, 5-Incendiary)

Large / Significant Fire Activity within the OFS Protection Area:

- Blue Ridge Fire (Pittsburg County) – 178 acres, 50% contained, 5 Structures Lost

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside of the Protection Area: No New Activity

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity: No New Activity

FIRE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS from www.firereporting.ok.gov reported September 20-22, 2021

- Light Initial Attack Activity
- Reporting Ongoing

Statewide Discussion: Warm and dry conditions continue with the start of the fall fire season as elevated fire danger persists across most of Oklahoma. Outside of far northeastern Oklahoma and a few locations southeast, much of the state is ≥ 14 days separation from wetting rains as rainfall deficits mount. On the heels of a few cool mornings and seasonal daytime temperatures, a general warming trend couple with continued dryness is forecasted. In the near-term forecast, no particular day stands out as overly worrisome noting that initial attack activity is expected to increase in frequency.

Today: Overnight moisture recovery in the western half of Oklahoma was marginal supporting earlier development of the burning period as temperatures warm under mostly clear skies. Relative humidity values will dip under 30% statewide today expecting much of the state to register below 25% during the late afternoon hours facilitating very receptive fine-dead fuels

- **Western Oklahoma/Oklahoma Panhandle** - 84°-89° with relative humidity values this afternoon registering 15-20% yielding fine-dead fuel moisture values during the peak burning period at 4% broadly and some locations registering 3%. Live herbaceous moisture has waned in recent days with hot/dry conditions and will serve as less of a heat-sink than would be normally expected at this time of the growing season. Southerly winds 10-20 mph with higher gusts during peak heating will yield head fire rates of spread in typical fuels 86-146 ft./min. and flame lengths 9-11 ft. Expect some problematic fire behavior in brush fuels including single-tree and group tree torching.
- **North-Central / Northeast** – Grass-dominated and brush fuels will exhibit showy fire behavior although resistance to control remains rather moderated. Timber fuels remain shaded although extended drying has resulted in some notable fire behavior. Temperature this afternoon in the mid-80°s and afternoon relative humidity values 21-28% will yield fine-dead fuel moisture values of 5% widely with some locations tapping 4% late in the burn period. Outside of those location in far northeastern Oklahoma where wetting rains occurred Monday night into Tuesday, fire behavior in general will exhibit a bit more aggressiveness that would normally be expected this time of the year. Calm winds this morning will become south-southwest this afternoon sustained 7-13 mph with some higher gusts supporting head-fire rates of spread in grass dominated fuels of 67-116 ft./min. with flame lengths 9-14 ft. Brush and timber fuels will exhibit ROS 18-40 ft./min. with head fire flame lengths 4-8 ft. Single-tree and group tree torching in brush fuels where juniper is present should be expected.
- **South-Central / Southeast** - Mid-80°s with afternoon relative humidity values 19-25% under mostly-clear skies yielding fine-dead fuel moisture values at 4-5% will prompt very receptive fuels this afternoon following respectable overnight moisture recoveries. Southerly winds sustained 7-10 mph becoming variable late in the burning period will support active fire behavior with moderated rates of spread that may be more terrain influenced. Nonetheless, grass dominated fuels will generally exhibit ROS less than 95 ft./min. and flame lengths 7-9 ft. presenting nominal resistance to control. Timber fuels, especially in south-central counties where areas are right at a month separated from rainfall, should expect single- and group-tree torching along with short range spotting.

Near-Term Outlook: In general, a slight warming trend and persistent dryness will hold fire danger firmly in place through the weekend and into next Monday. Fire behavior will also remain fairly consistent with today's fire behavior expectations on new fire starts. While still several days out, some precipitation chances do again enter the forecast next Tuesday/Wednesday. Oklahoma Wildfire Situation Report is scheduled to updated next Tuesday, September 28, 2021.

Burn Bans: LeFlore County

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 Arson Tip Line: 1-866-662-7766 (1-Prepared By: Drew Daily, OFS Fire



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activity on the 866-NO ARSON. Staff