

Fire Situation Report – April 4, 2023

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

OFS STATISTICS for April 3, 2023

OFS Preparedness Level: 1 – 2 – **3** – 4 – 5

NE Area – 2 Fires Burned 100 Acres (Cause: 2-Incendiary)

EC Area – No New Activity

SE Area – No New Activity

Large / Significant Fire Activity within the OFS Protection Area:

- Middle Point Fire (Adair County) – 370 Acres / 90% Contained
- Signal Mountain Fire (Pushmataha County) 125 Acres / 80% Contained

Fire Activity with OFS Response outside of the Protection Area:

- Cotten Creek Fire (Washington County) – 428 Acres / 55% Contained
- Gap Road Fire (Washington County) – 4,416 Acres / 75% Contained
- Simpson Road Fire (Logan County) – 3,392 Acres / 55% Contained
- Virginia Fire (Washington County) – 1,472 Acres / 75% Contained

OFS Prescribed Fire Activity:

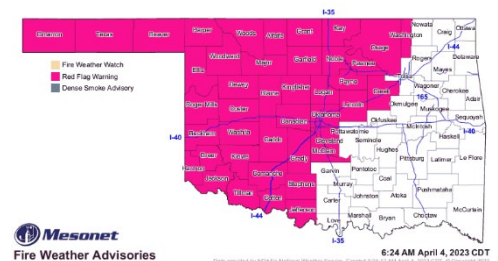
No New Activity

Fire Department Activity:

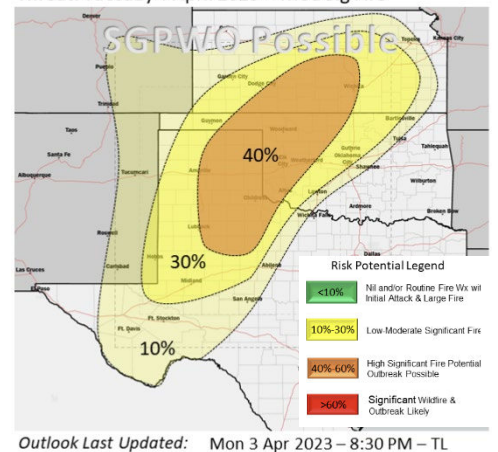
Moderate Initial Attack Activity

Statewide Discussion: A widespread Red Flag Warning is in effect today across Oklahoma generally along and northwest of I-44. Today presents a complicated forecast with fire weather over very receptive fuels while an enhanced risk for severe weather enters the mix overnight in eastern and southeastern Oklahoma. Focusing in on the fire danger today, temperatures +15°-20° above normal coupled with very dry air and strong/gusty southwest winds over dry fuels subjected to intensive drying in recent days will result in extreme fire danger over a broad area centered around northwest Oklahoma. Conditions do moderate following frontal passage overnight although elevated fire weather will remain in place over western Oklahoma through the remainder of the week.

Today: Intensive drying yesterday with afternoon relative humidity observations in western Oklahoma as low as 4% and very poor overnight moisture recovery in northwestern and far-western Oklahoma sets the stage for super-receptive fuels today during a critical to extreme fire-effective weather event. Dewpoint temperature in the single digits this morning will support single digit relative humidity observations again today as temperature move above normal and a dryline drives into Oklahoma. This weather system is similar to what Oklahoma experienced on Friday with a few differences: 1) The system is displaced a bit further west centered in northwestern Oklahoma, 2) Ambient fuel load is below normal given persistent drought limiting fire behavior to some extent, 3) Fuels, however, have been subjected to intensive drying suggesting increased resistance to control, 4) High cirrus clouds and blowing dust may offer enough sky cover to limit fine-dead fuel moisture from reaching minimum dryness, and 5) Cold front passage is expected to be around midnight or after as opposed to during peak burning conditions. Those cirrus clouds may inhibit satellite monitoring and detection.



Threat: Tuesday 4 April 2023 – Mod Sig Fire



- **40% Area (Map Above/Right):** With no overnight moisture recovery in the Panhandle, northwest and far western Oklahoma, potential for troublesome fire behavior on early starts is high. A dryline will migrate into the state supporting extreme fire weather development over very receptive fuels. Temperature will soar into the mid-70°s to possibly upper-80°s with relative humidity values 7-11% yielding fine-dead fuel moisture values at 2%. Some cirrus clouds and blowing dust may hold observations at 3% but still very receptive. Southwest winds sustained 28-35 mph with gusts nearing 60 mph will support rapid rates of spread. In rangeland fuels, head fire rates of spread 182-295 ft/min (**2.1-3.3 mph**) are likely during peak burning conditions with flame lengths 10-16 ft. Pockets of heavier fuels will exhibit short duration runs approaching 350 ft/min (3.9 mph) and problematic fire behavior including torching, spotting (up to ¼ mile) and rapid runs is expected. Frontal passage will result in a shift to northwesterly winds after midnight with winds gradually diminishing overnight.
- **Along/North of I-44:** Respectable overnight moisture recovery will somewhat delay development of active burning conditions, although the number of fires occurring Friday through Monday have placed additional ignition sources in the environment. As the dryline angles into central Oklahoma and north-central Oklahoma, a critical burning period lasting approximately 4-5 hours will develop around 1:00 continuing into the evening. Temperature in the mid- to upper 80°s with relative humidity values generally 14-23% under lingering cirrus clouds will register 3-5% or receptive to very-receptive. Winds will increase becoming southwesterly sustained 14-25 mph gusting to near 40 mph at times. Grass dominated fuels will exhibit head fire rates of spread 128-187 ft/min (**+/-2.0 mph**) flame lengths 9-14 ft. Mixed fuels will exhibit problematic fire behavior including torching, short crown runs and frequent spotting. Frontal wind shifts expected after 2:00 AM.

Map of Oklahoma showing forestry service areas by county. The map is color-coded: yellow for County Burs-Burs, red for Gummata-Burs-Burs, blue for County Alst, and purple for County Burs-Burs County Alst. Major cities like Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and Muskogee are marked. A legend in the bottom left explains the color coding. A red banner at the bottom states "Map Updated on: 4/3/23 1823" and "8 of 77 counties with submitted resolutions". The source "Epi. FAO 1" is noted in the bottom right.

*****Please check the burn map later today as we are anticipating an increase in burn ban proclamations given deteriorating conditions.***