

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michelle Finch-Walker, 580-236-1021, michelle.finch@ag.ok.gov

Today's Weather Reduces Fire Behavior Increasing Fire Activity Anticipated Wednesday through Friday

Cooler temperatures, higher relative humidity, and lighter winds have combined to reduce fire behavior potential and probability of ignition. Rainfall amounts were variable across the state with amounts varying from over 1 inch to only a trace. There is a slight chance of rain today, but this is a weak system and will not produce any significant rainfall. Wednesday through Friday will see a daily increase in fire weather parameters with Friday predicted to have "Near Critical" conditions. Although the various weather models are vague at this point, there is a potential for significant rain statewide for the weekend. This storm system will be tracked closely over the coming days.

Statewide No New Wildfires Reported

350 Complex Update:

Due to increased containment and the complexity of the fire, Oklahoma Forestry Services and the Lone Star State Incident Management Team will transfer command of the fire back to the local jurisdiction. The 350 Complex Fire is currently 57,167 acres and is now 90 percent contained. The cause of the fire has been identified as arcing power lines.

Oklahoma Forestry Services is working in cooperation with local fire departments, county wildland task forces and county and state emergency management to suppress the wildfires and protect lives and property across the state. Oklahoma Forestry Services is the state's lead agency related to wildland fire prevention, protection and use. For additional information about wildfires, visit www.forestry.ok.gov/wildfire-information.

Burn Bans: 2 NEW Counties Added

Harper, Cimarron, Texas, Woodward, Alfalfa and Beaver counties have issued county burn bans. For the most current information on burn bans click on the following link:

<http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information>

Wildfire Prevention Tip:

We have to be mindful that our sparks can ignite a wildfire, so before you zero in on the target, keep wildfire safety in your sights. Certain types of ammunition can ignite a wildfire. Take the time to clear an area around your target and avoid dry grass and flammable materials before you shoot.

(MORE)

Photo Caption: Graphic for fire prevention tip – target shooting. Plus 24-hr rain total, source: https://www.mesonet.org/index.php/weather/map/24_hr_rainfall_accumulation/rainfall

Note to Media:

For the latest Oklahoma “Daily Wildfire Situation Report” visit www.forestry.ok.gov and click the link on the home page (green box on right hand side.) The report contains information about recent fire activity, predicted fire weather and a link for current burn bans.

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About Oklahoma Forestry Services

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting Oklahoma’s 12.5 million acres of forests and woodlands. Since 1925, Oklahoma Forestry Services has worked with individuals and communities throughout the state to create resilient landscapes, fire-adaptive communities and provide wildfire response. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the division also has regional offices in Goldsby, Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.

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