

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Critical Fire Danger Across Oklahoma

Oklahoma Forestry Services is alerting the public of critical fire weather again Saturday. Dry conditions coupled with strong, gusty winds and low humidity mean any fire that starts will spread rapidly.

“As people prepare to celebrate New Year’s Eve we are asking them to reconsider the use of fireworks in light of our ongoing drought and the fire weather potential,” said George Geissler, Oklahoma State Forester. “Tomorrow’s weather calls for critical fire danger and even the smallest ember could spark a blaze. If you decide to celebrate with fireworks, please use extra caution.”

Precautions would include having a source of water on hand and having someone on the lookout for any unintended ignitions. Citizens are also asked to call their nearest fire department if they see or smell smoke.

There are currently no burn bans in place. 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.

For the latest Oklahoma “Daily Wildfire Situation Report” visit www.forestry.ok.gov and click the link on the homepage (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 Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.