

# OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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## PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2016

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### High Fire Danger Continues Across Oklahoma

Outdoor burning is not advised this week due to the dry, windy conditions that will be present over most of the state. Officials from Oklahoma Forestry Services (OFS) report that there were numerous wildfires across the state yesterday and weather conditions today will be similar.

“The fires we have experienced over the last few days were very intense with erratic fire behavior,” Mark Goeller, OFS Fire Management Chief, said. “When conditions are extreme, OFS will continue if possible to pre-position wildland firefighting resources near areas that are predicted to experience the worst fire behavior, minimizing response time. The only factor which prevents us from pre-positioning resources is if fire activity in our primary protection area limits resource availability.”

Low relative humidity, combined with very dry fuels and sustained winds at 15-20 mph, with some gusts possible near 30 mph, are creating the dangerous conditions. This pattern is expected to repeat throughout the week.

“Any fire that starts will spread rapidly so we are urging everyone to delay any outdoor activity that might spark a blaze,” said George Geissler, Oklahoma State Forester. “We are just asking Oklahomans to remain vigilant as we are on the verge of our spring fire season.”

Outdoor burning is discouraged and citizens are asked to report any new fires or suspicious smoke to the closest fire department. Safety of the firefighters and public is of the utmost concern and with this weather forecast one of the main threats for firefighters will be rapid spread of any fire start.

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](http://www.forestry.ok.gov/wildfire-information).

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#### Note to Media:

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