

# OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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## PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Weekend Fire Danger Critical

Governor Mary Fallin issued a burn ban yesterday for 53 counties due to extreme weather conditions and extraordinary fire danger. The Governor's Burn Ban addresses continued long-term weather and drought predictions.

Fire danger is expected to increase today and Sunday with very warm temperatures, falling relative humidity and increasing winds ahead of a cold front that is currently expected to arrive in western Oklahoma late Saturday, moving across Oklahoma through the night.

"Today's conditions are expected to be some of the worst that we have seen so far this year," said George Geissler, Oklahoma State Forester. "We ask that even if you don't live in one of the counties under the ban, that you seriously consider postponing any activities that might create a spark."

Oklahomans are also urged to call 911 with any reports of smoke or fires. "Quick response by firefighters is critical during these conditions due to the rapid rate of spread that we are seeing on fires over the past couple of days," Geissler said.

OFS wildland crews, local fire departments and Oklahoma Army National Guard aircraft are prepositioned and ready to respond to fires that may occur.

The burn ban map and resolution stating prohibited activities can be seen at [www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information](http://www.forestry.ok.gov/burn-ban-information).

Oklahoma Forestry Services is the state's lead agency related to wildland fire prevention and protection. 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.

## **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>.

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