

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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Western Oklahoma Braces for Extreme Fire Danger

A number of fires are on-going in Oklahoma this afternoon and extreme fire weather conditions are forecast again tomorrow across western Oklahoma, including the Oklahoma Panhandle. High temperatures and dry fuels coupled with gusty winds will result in an extremely dangerous fire weather situation for all counties west of Interstate 35. Elevated to potentially critical fire weather will be present in areas of northern Oklahoma as well generally west of Highway 75.

Any fire that occurs given the current forecast conditions has the potential to spread rapidly and could result in large fires. Citizens are urged to be vigilant with outdoor activities and are asked to report any suspicious smoke or fire to their closest fire department or by calling 911.

Homeowners can also make their home more defensible by moving trash, debris and other flammable items like firewood piles or portable propane tanks a safe distance away from their home.

“Under these extreme conditions we are strongly discouraging any burning in any county west of Interstate 35 tomorrow,” said State Forester George Geissler. “Oklahoma Forestry Services personnel are monitoring the weather forecasts and fire danger and have wildfire task forces and Oklahoma National Guard aircraft prepared to respond as fires occur.”

The safety of Oklahoma’s firefighters and public is of the utmost concern. Extreme fire weather potential results in notable risks, and we urge Oklahomans to be Firewise.

Oklahoma Forestry Services is the state’s lead agency related to wildland fire prevention and protection. For additional information about wildfires and burn bans, visit www.forestry.ok.gov/wildfire-information. For Firewise tips visit www.forestry.ok.gov/firewiselinksandpublications.

Note to Media:

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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