

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Red flag warning across western Oklahoma

Critical fire weather will be present ahead of a cold front in western Oklahoma and many north-central counties today. Citizens in this area are asked to delay any outdoor burning or other activities that could result in a wildfire.

“Any fire that starts will spread rapidly so we are urging everyone to extremely careful with any outdoor activity that might spark a blaze,” said George Geissler, Oklahoma State Forester. “We are pre-positioning wildland firefighter task forces to have a quicker response time in the event that a wildfire occurs.”

Low relative humidity, combined with temperatures in the mid-70s and sustained winds at 25-30 mph, with gusts near or in excess of 40 mph are creating the dangerous conditions. These conditions translate into high to extreme fire danger across all of Oklahoma today.

“Citizens actions can play a part in fire occurrence on a day like this,” said Geissler. “We are asking you to report any new fires or suspicious smoke to the closest fire department. Quick response time is critical with this weather forecast.”

Safety of Oklahoma’s firefighters and public is of the utmost concern. One of the main threats for firefighters will be rapid spread of any fire start. In addition to prepositioned task forces, Oklahoma Forestry Services has requested National Guard helicopters be prepared for mobilization in support of fire suppression.

Stay aware of current wildfire conditions by reading our fire situation reports that are posted daily on Facebook and at www.forestry.ok.gov.

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.

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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