



# Fire Situation Report – October 16, 2024

## Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry



**OFS STATISTICS for October 15, 2024 / OFS Preparedness Level: 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5**

**NE Area – 3 Fires Burned 161 Acres** (Cause: 3-Incendiary)  
**EC Area – 1 Fire Burned 0.7 Acres** (Cause: 1-Incendiary)  
**SE Area – 7 Fires Burned 14.4 Acres** (Cause: 2-Equipment, 5-Incendiary)

**Large / Significant Fire Activity within the OFS Protection Area:**

- **Baron Fork Fire (Adair County) – 128 Acres / 60% Contained**

**Fire Activity with OFS Response outside of the Protection Area: 1 Fire Burned 44 Acres** (Cause: 1-Incendiary)

**OFS Prescribed Fire Activity:**

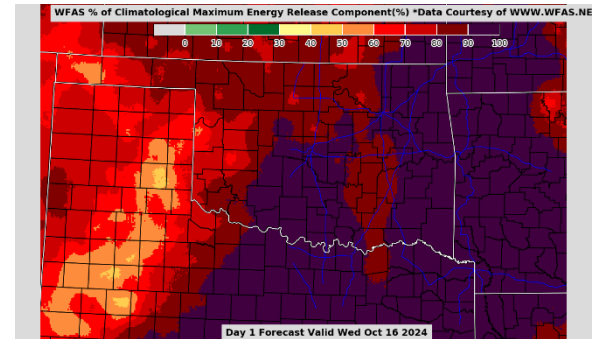
**No New Activity**

**Fire Department Activity:**

**Light to Moderate Initial Attack (4 Fires Burned 11 Acres)**

**Statewide Discussion:** A rather chilly start with much cooler temperatures this afternoon although lower dewpoint temperatures behind yesterday's cold front will still hold relative humidity values below 25% across Oklahoma excluding a few locations in the Panhandle counties. Increased likelihood of new wildfire occurrence is expected to continue today although winds will be much calmer as they begin to toggle back to the south through the day into the overnight hours. A somewhat weak dry-return flow pattern sets up for Thursday and Friday firmly holding elevated fire danger concern in place. However, the strongest fire weather (northwest) will be somewhat misaligned with driest fuels that plague the state from southwest Oklahoma up into the north-central counties and all points east.

**Incident Commander/Firefighter Note:** A point of situation awareness for firefighting personnel... Energy Release Component (ERC), when captured over a seven-day period and compared to longer term climatological data, serves as a build-up index for composite fuel moisture where higher rankings translate to increased resistance to control on the fireground. Generally, when ERC registers at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher, additional resources are needed during initial attack response and a longer duration of resources is required for mop-up efforts driving to contain a wildfire. ERC values currently eclipse the 75<sup>th</sup> %tile in all but the Panhandle, northwest and a few far western counties. Across the eastern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and parts of south-central Oklahoma are registering above the 90<sup>th</sup> %tile with locations along the OK/AR border registering record observations based on 21 years of climatological data. Incident Commanders should anticipate managing additional resources for a longer period of commitment especially where ERC is highest.

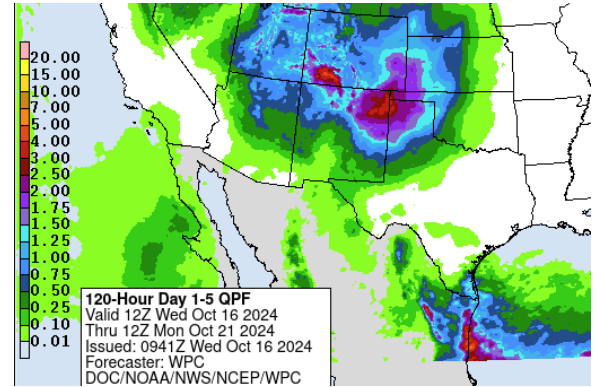


**Today:** In the wake of yesterday's dry cold front, much cooler temperatures and lighter winds are expected over most of Oklahoma. The dry, post-frontal air, however, will support low relative humidity values this afternoon supporting the continuation of very receptive carrier fuels and elevated potential for wildfire occurrence. Mop-up efforts from yesterday's activity will be important given increasing fire weather on Thursday and Friday. Initial attack activity is expected to be successful today with limited large fire potential and very-low significant fire potential.

- **Southwest & Western Oklahoma:** Light northerly winds this morning will switch to southerly this afternoon sustained 7-10 mph with some higher gusts. Temperature will warm into the mid-60°s across most of the area under clear skies with afternoon relative humidity values 15-20% yielding fine-dead fuel moisture at 4%. During the peak of the burning period, rangeland fuels will support head fire rates of spread 78-97 ft/min with flame lengths 7-10 ft.
- **North-Central/Northeast Oklahoma:** In recent days, the most problematic fires have occurred in this area exhibiting anomalous fire behavior for the season. Today, temperature around 65° under clear skies with afternoon relative humidity values 19-24% will again support fine-dead fuel moisture at a very receptive 4-5%. Light and variable winds this morning will become easterly the southeast sustained 4-9 mph. Grasslands will support head fire rates of spread at a much more manageable pace of 48-80 ft/min with flame lengths 9-12 ft. Mixed fuels will continue to exhibit comparatively slower rates of spread although problematic fire behavior including group torching and short-range spotting should be expected.
- **Central Oklahoma:** Overall fuels receptiveness varies across the area dependent upon the number of days since rain. Temperature 64°-68° under clear skies with afternoon relative humidity values 18-22% will support 1-Hr. fuel moisture at 5% with a few 4% observations likely. Light winds this morning will become easterly then southeast sustained 4-8 mph offering moderated fire spread potential. Grass-dominated fuels will exhibit head fire rates of spread around 55 ft/min with flame lengths 7-9 ft. Mixed fuels will continue to exhibit problematic fire behavior and flare ups although moderated rates of spread will support very good probability of initial attack success.
- **Eastern Oklahoma:** The strength of drying in the past two weeks has significantly affected composite fuel moisture and supporting a shift to fuels driven fires when adverse fire weather is not present. Today, temperature 63°-69° under clear skies with afternoon relative humidity values +/-22% will yield receptive fine-dead fuel moisture at 4-5%. By afternoon, winds will become easterly at 3-6 mph with a few higher gusts. Grass-dominated fuel will exhibit rates of spread around 50 ft/min with flame lengths 4-9 ft dependent grass loading and stature. Timber litter will exhibit ROS around 25 ft/min with FL 3-6 ft coupled with some torching, spotting and short crown runs where slope and fuels are aligned.

**Thursday:** Moderate overnight moisture recovery for most locations will support an earlier start to the burning period as winds switch back to the south with increasing intensity. The strongest fire weather will develop in the northwestern and Panhandle counties misaligned with the most adverse fuels that are prevalent further south and east across Oklahoma. Nonetheless, the state of fuels will continue to support higher rates of wildfire occurrence with elevated resistance to control.

**Near-Term:** Elevated fire danger continues Friday focusing on eastern Oklahoma where afternoon relative humidity values will again dip to around 25%. Further west, higher dew point temperature will limit relative humidity values from getting into the concerning range although winds will begin to increase as precipitation chances increase for the Panhandle and far western Oklahoma into the evening and overnight. Quantitative rainfall potential though Monday shows optimism for wetting rains in the Panhandle, northwest and portion of western and north-central Oklahoma although east of the US 81 corridor is not expected to receive beneficial rainfall if any. Peaking furth out at the 8-14 Day Outlook, there is some hope for rainfall further east, but again that is only 'hope' at this time.



**County Burn Bans:** Click [HERE](#) for the most current burn ban information.

