

# agweather connection

## BURN BAN CHANGES

In the past, the Oklahoma Governor was the only person that could issue a burn ban. This power was recently extended to include all county commissioners across the state. This new county authority was approved by the Oklahoma State Legislature in 2008 and became effective on June 2, 2008. County commissioners in Oklahoma's 77 counties now have the right to issue local county Burn Bans for up to 7 days.

"It gives the county commissioners the opportunity to put a burn ban on if they felt they needed to for a particular area," said Senator Ron Justice. "There is so much variation across the state, the feeling among rural fire fighters was that they needed a more localized control on burning bans."

The Governor of Oklahoma can issue burn bans that supersede county burn bans. Burn bans issued by the Governor remain in effect until cancelled by the Governor. During a Burn Ban, it is against the law to set fire to any forest, grass, range, crop, or other wild lands. It is also illegal to build a campfire or bonfire, or to burn trash.

### Governor vs. County Burn Bans

#### Governor-issued burn ban:

- Issued by the Governor of Oklahoma
- In effect until cancelled by the Governor of Oklahoma
- In response to long-term burning conditions over a larger area
- Makes it illegal to set fire to any forest, grass, range, crop, or other wild lands, build a campfire, bonfire, or burn trash.

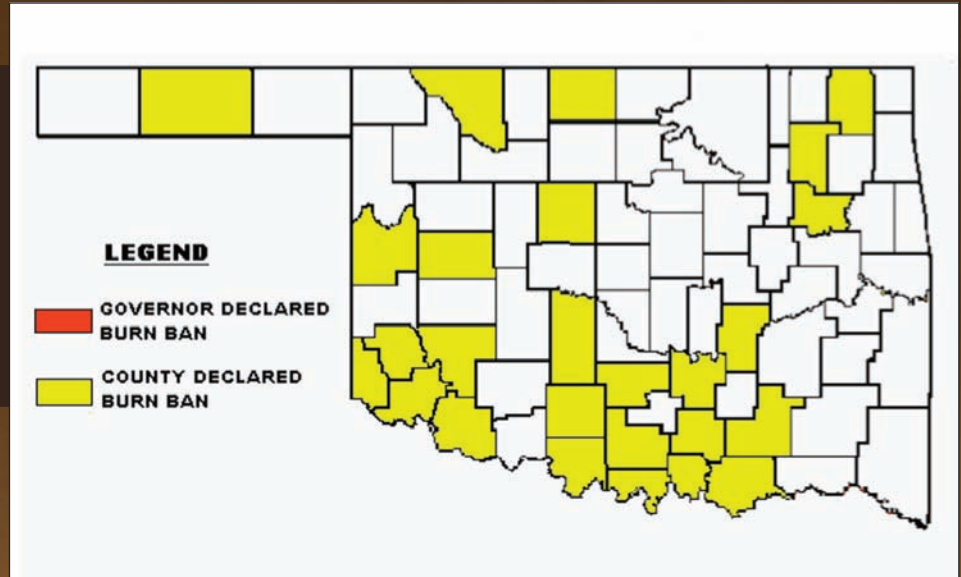
#### County-issued burn ban:

- Issued by the county commissioners of each county
- In effect for 7 days
- In response to short-term burning conditions over a more localized area
- Makes it illegal to set fire to any forest, grass, range, crop, or other wild lands, build a campfire, bonfire, or burn trash.



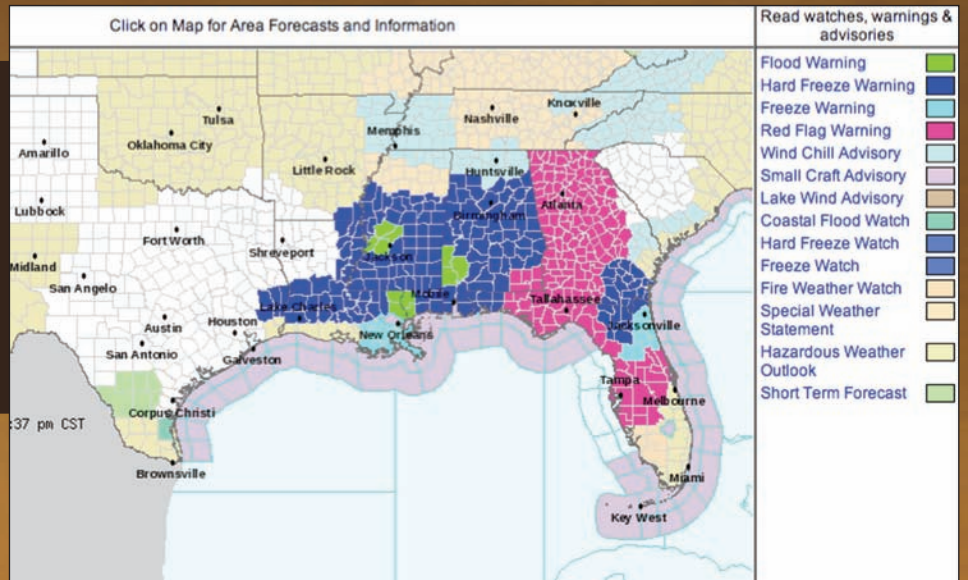
## Is there a burn ban?

- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Range/Forest"
- Then click "BURN BAN INFO"
- Choose "Oklahoma Burn Ban Info"
- Select "Burn Bans in Effect," which is located in the middle of the page



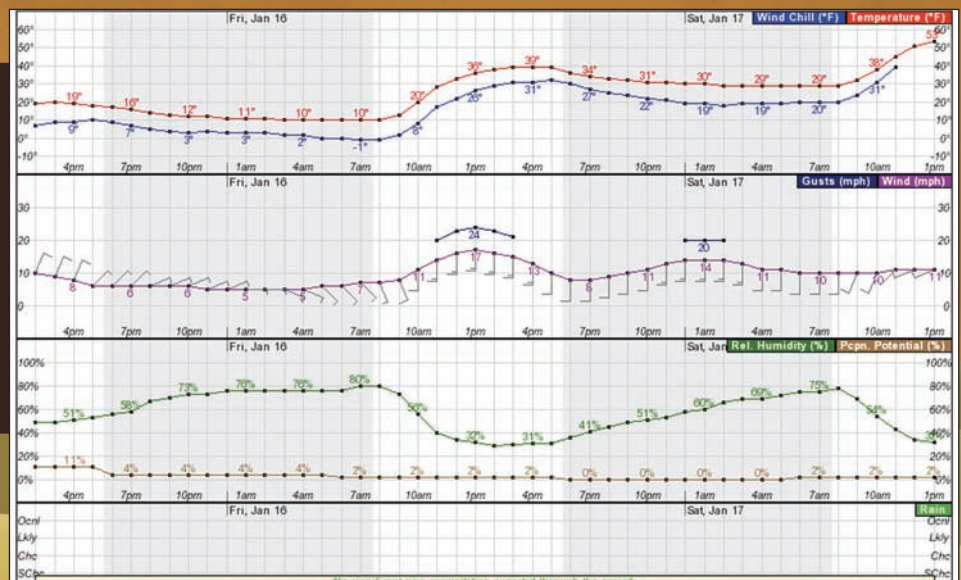
## Is there a Red Flag fire warning?

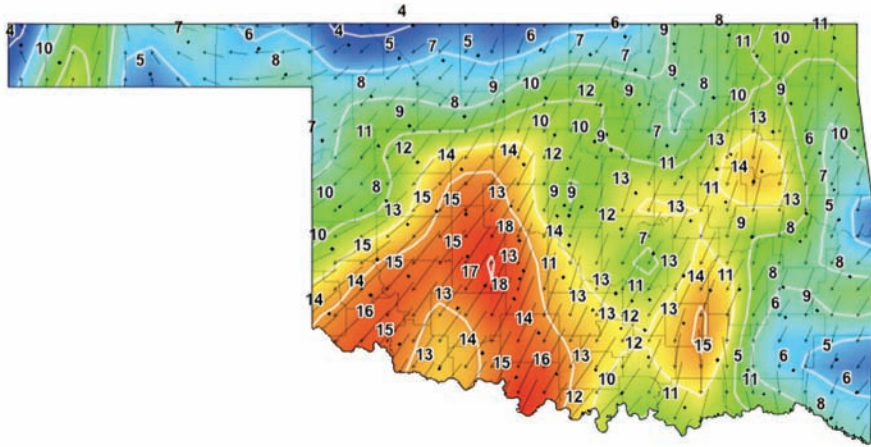
- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Click on "Range/Forest"
- Then click "BURN BAN INFO"
- Choose "Oklahoma Burn Ban Info"
- Select "Current Red Flag Watches and Warnings"



## What is the forecast?

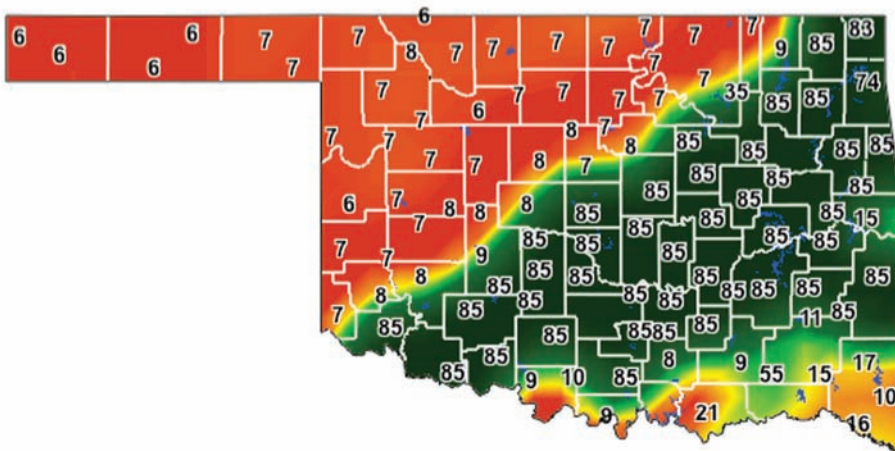
- Go to <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Make sure you select the closest Mesonet tower for the "Current Weather at:" section on the home page
- Next, click "Forecast"
- Then select the "NAT. WEATHER SERVICE"
- Finally, choose "Hour-by-Hour Forecast"





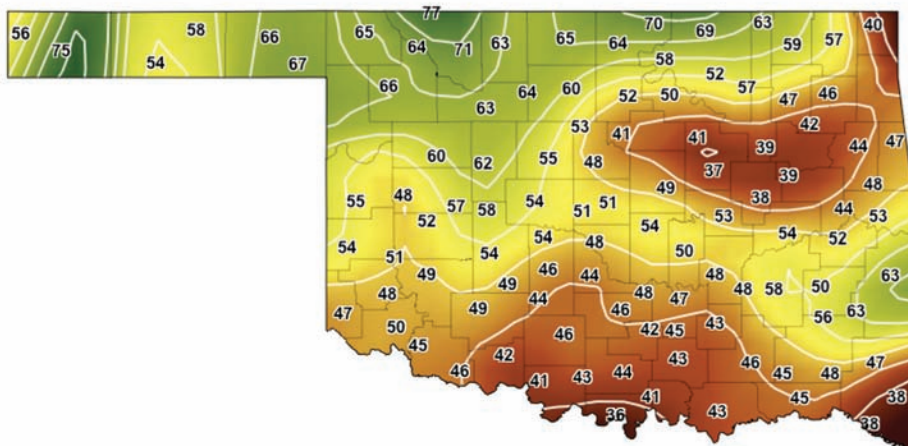
## How fast is the wind blowing?

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Weather"
- Next, click "WIND"
- Now choose "Current Wind"



## What is the Dead Fuel Moisture?

- Go to <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Range/Forest"
- Next, click "FIRE DANGER"
- Now select "1-hr Dead Fuel Moisture"



## What is the relative humidity?

- Go to <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Weather"
- Next, click "HUMIDITY"
- Select "Current Humidity"

# safety**FIRST**

Call the Sheriff's Department and report your burn.

Be conscientious about burning by roadways.

It is important to follow a few guidelines ensure safety during prescribed burns. • Relative humidity should be between 30 percent and 60 percent. • One-hour dead fuel moisture should be 10 percent to 15 percent. Burning may not be possible with 1-hour dead fuel moisture greater than 20 percent because the fuels are too wet to burn. • Wind speeds should range from 5 to 10 miles per hour. There should be some wind so the fire can spread. • Consider possible sensitive areas downwind (hospitals, neighborhoods) in case smoke might be carried in those directions. • Make sure there are no major wind direction shifts expected during the course of the burn. A steady wind direction helps keep the main fire moving in the same direction.

Disc a 10-foot buffer around your burn area. It contains the fire and gives it a boundary.

Don't burn on a windy day. Winds should be less than 10 miles per hour.

Note: This publication is not a proponent or opponent of prescribed burning, nor does it assume any liability for the effects of a prescribed burn.

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