

Oklahoma Burning, Winter 2005-2006
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Since October 2005, unseasonably high temperatures, low humidity levels, drought and high winds triggered wildfires in the southern plains of the U.S., in particular in Oklahoma and Texas. With temperatures in the 80s (27 celcius) and no measurable rain, over 600,000 acres have burned in Oklahoma, causing a statewide burn ban. By the time this is presented, that number will increase. A command center was established to oversee the deployment of the U.S. Forest Service firefighters, Tribal firefighters, paid and volunteer departments and military assistance. This paper will investigate the natural and manmade environmental conditions that contribute to these massive wildfires and the cost of both the near future of potential loss in agricultural products and long term effects of loss of property and life.



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