

Initial Tasks to Perform Before Using the OK-FIRE Web Site

Downloading the “WeatherScope” software

The “WeatherScope” software is used in conjunction with your browser to create the dynamic maps which are available on the OK-FIRE web site. The software only works on computers, and not tablets, such as iPads, or smart phones.

The initial installation is a one-time-only activity, but needs to be done on every computer on which you plan to use OK-FIRE. From time to time, there will be updates of WeatherScope and at such times you will need to download the updated software again. Typically a message will appear on the OK-FIRE web page indicating that a new version is now available for download. We will also try to keep you posted when such updates occur .. such as via a scrolling ticker across the top of the home page.

To download WeatherScope, click on “Download Now” in the WeatherScope section of the OK-FIRE home page (on the right-hand side):

August 03, 2012 A full-day OK-FIRE training workshop will be offered in Norman on Friday August 31. Please see the announcement in the “News” section.

OK-FIRE Forecast based on 2012.08.24 12Z NAM; NEXT forecast update expected 5 pm CDT

Mesonet

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WEATHER | FIRE | SMOKE | SATELLITE | RADAR | AIR QUALITY | BURN SITE | LINKS

Wynona		Fri 8/24/12
Weather 12:30 pm CDT		
Temperature:	83°F	
Heat Index:	86°F	
Relative Humidity:	55%	
10-m Wind:	S 15 mph	
24-h Rainfall:	0.00"	
Dispersion:	Moderately Good	
Fire Danger 12:00 pm CDT		
Current Fire Danger:		
HIGH		
Burning Index:	57	
Spread Component:	50	
Ignition Component:	27%	
NFDRS Fuel Model:	T	
1-hr Fuel Moisture:	7%	
10-hr Fuel Moisture:	10%	
KBDI:	738	
Relative Greenness:	25%	
Sunrise:	6:50 am	Sunset: 8:05 pm

CHOOSE A STATION

Weather-Based Decision Support Products for Wildland Fire Management in Oklahoma

WeatherScope required

The interactive features of this web site require the free WeatherScope software.

Click Here to download WeatherScope.

DOWNLOAD NOW

Fire Prescription Planner

OK-FIRE is a program of the Oklahoma Mesonet with leadership being provided by Oklahoma State University. Initial funding for OK-FIRE was provided from a grant from the Joint Fire Science Program (# 05-2-1-81). Copyright © 2006-2012 Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. All Rights Reserved. webmaster@mesonet.org

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This will take you to a separate web page (Oklahoma Mesonet). Based on the type of computer you are using, click on the latest WeatherScope version for either Windows operating systems (PCs) or Mac systems.



The screenshot shows the Mesonet website interface. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the Mesonet logo and links for Home, About, Programs, Contact, Help, and Oklahoma Climatological Survey. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with categories like Weather, Climate, Forecast, K-12 Education, Agriculture, Public Safety, and Fire Management, along with a search box. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a list of weather-related categories such as Local Weather, Current Conditions, Air Temperature, Rainfall, Wind, Dewpoint & Humidity, Soil Moisture/Temperature, Pressure, Ground Water, Station Meteograms, Past Data & Files, Radar, and Solar Radiation & Satellite. The central focus is the 'WeatherScope 1.9.1' section, which includes a globe icon, a 'Description' paragraph explaining the software's capabilities, a 'System Requirements' section with technical specifications, and two prominent buttons labeled 'Download Mac' and 'Download PC'. Social media sharing options for Facebook and Twitter are also visible.

After clicking on either “Download Mac” or “Download PC”, a “File Download” box (in the case of Internet Explorer) will appear. At this point it’s important to close any web browsers you have open. Follow the directions to install the software.

On Internet Explorer, click on the “Run”, “Next”, and “Install” buttons as they come up. When the software has been installed, it will say so and you should click “Finish”. At this point you can open your browser to get back to OK-FIRE. The WeatherScope software is now ready for use.

Possible Problems

Even after installing WeatherScope on certain browsers (e.g., Internet Explorer for Windows), maps may not show up due to the default disabling of something called “ActiveX controls”. Typically a bar will appear near the upper portion of the web page asking you whether you wish to run ActiveX controls. Follow the directions to activate it. From that point on, everything should work fine. A quick way to see if you need to do this is to click on the “SMOKE” section on the home page of OK-FIRE; if a colored map of smoke dispersion conditions and winds does not appear, then you need to activate ActiveX controls.

In addition, some recent problems with IE9 (on some computers) and possibly some other browsers have surfaced where the state and county boundaries are not shown on the plug-in maps (such as the map you see when you click on “SMOKE”). If you have this problem, please contact the OCS Operations Center at operator@mesonet.org or 405-325-3231. Their hours of operation are shown in the “Contacts” section of OK-FIRE in the upper left.