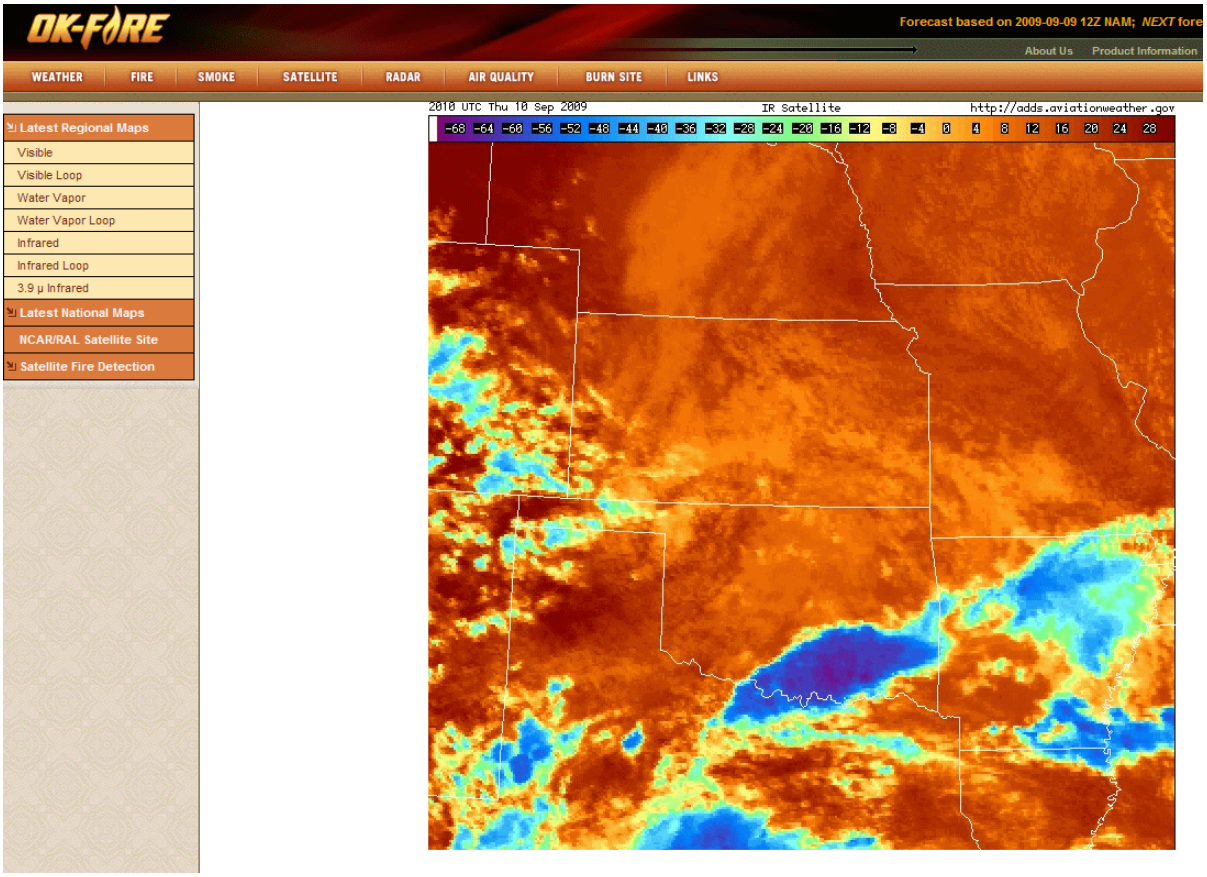
SATELLITE Section of OK-FIRE

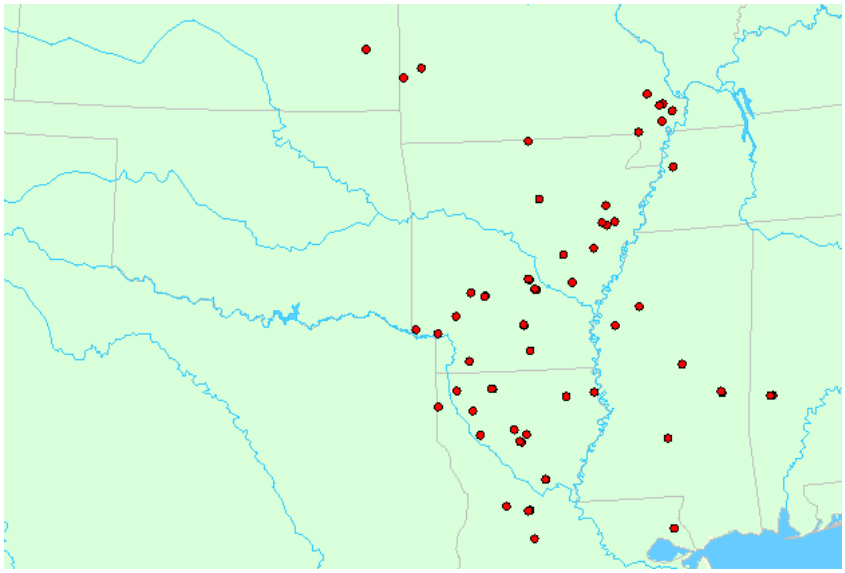


The “SATELLITE” section of the OK-FIRE web site offers the latest visible, water vapor, infrared, and 3.9 micron (µ) infrared images of the Southern Great Plains region and of the continental U.S. Animations (“loops”) of the visible, water vapor, and infrared images are also available. The visible image is what you would see yourself if you were at the satellite’s location. At locations where it is locally night, all the cloud features will go away due to darkness. On the other hand, the water vapor and infrared images are able to show the cloud features day or night. The water vapor image reflects the amount of water vapor in particular cloud structures. The infrared image (example shown above) reflects the temperature of the cloud tops - in this case, the blue colors denote high cloud tops (which are cooler in temperature). The 3.9 µ infrared image is often used under clear sky conditions to detect surface hot spots (possible fires).

If you want to see regional radar images from other areas of the country with the capacity for animation, go to the “NCAR/RAL Satellite Site”. Locally, the ICT or ABI regional images give good coverage of Oklahoma, while the LIT regional images give good coverage of Arkansas.

The next menu item, “Satellite Fire Detection”, features web sites specializing in the satellite detection of “hot spots”, which in most cases represent large fires. Such detection can be useful on days with wildfires breaking out or already in progress.

On the first site, “NOAA Fire Detection Site”, you can left click to zoom into your geographical area of interest. Press the “Back” button on your browser to zoom out again. An example showing the current hot spots from 9/14/2006 is shown below:



Another useful site is the second one on the menu, “USDA Forest Service Fire Detection”. One can click on various regions of the continental US, choose the MODIS, GOES, or AVHRR satellite sensor, and observe the satellite-detected fires in that region.