

Fall 2010 OK-FIRE Training Sessions Announced



OK-FIRE is a **weather-based decision-support system for wildland fire managers in Oklahoma**. Applications include both wildfire and prescribed fire. The program has been developed over the past five years by Oklahoma State University in conjunction with the University of Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Mesonet, the state's automated weather station network.

OK-FIRE has a three-fold focus: (1) an extensive suite of recent, current, and forecast products for fire weather, fire danger, and smoke dispersion; (2) a dedicated web site (<http://okfire.mesonet.org>); and (3) regional training and customer support. The 120-station Oklahoma Mesonet is used for current and recent conditions, while an 84-hour numerical forecast model (NAM – North American Mesoscale) is used for forecast conditions out to three days in the future. Products are available in map, graph, and table format.

OK-FIRE training opportunities during Fall 2010 are listed below. “**Beg**” denotes the beginner workshop, and “**Adv**” the advanced (see next page). “AM” denotes a morning half-day computer workshop (8:30 am – 12 noon, approx.) and “AFT”, an afternoon half-day computer workshop (1:30 – 5 pm, approx.). All training sessions will be directed by Dr. J. D. Carlson, OSU fire meteorologist and director of the OK-FIRE program. As you can see below, training will be available for most geographical areas of Oklahoma.

LOCATION	DATES	AVAILABLE SESSIONS
NORMAN	Sep. 24	Beg (AFT)
BARTLESVILLE	Oct. 6	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
AFTON	Oct. 7	Beg (AFT)
WEATHERFORD	Oct. 20	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
ALTUS	Oct. 27	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
SAYRE	Oct. 28-29	Beg (AFT, Oct. 28); Adv (AM, Oct. 29)
DUNCAN	Nov. 3	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
SULPHUR	Nov. 4-5	Beg (AFT, Nov. 4); Adv (AM, Nov. 5)
WOODWARD	Nov. 10	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
ALVA	Nov. 11	Beg (AFT)
EL RENO	Nov. 23	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
MCALESTER	Dec. 1	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
ANTLERS	Dec. 2-3	Beg (AFT, Dec. 2); Adv (AM, Dec. 3)
JENKS	Dec. 8	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
SALLISAW	Dec. 9	Beg (AFT)
ENID	Dec. 14	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)
STILLWATER	Dec. 16	Beg (AM); Adv (AFT)

With respect to **wildfire**, benefits of using OK-FIRE include *better anticipation of severe wildfire conditions, guidance for optimal staffing levels, and tracking existing and forecast weather conditions during the wildfire itself, leading to better suppression strategies*. In addition, OK-FIRE can provide *guidance to counties in their **burn ban decisions***. With respect to **prescribed fire**, OK-FIRE can help in the *planning and conducting of prescribed burns*.

All sessions this fall will be **half-day workshops in a computer lab setting** in which the attendee will have hands-on computer experience with the OK-FIRE web site. Morning workshops will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon (approx.), and afternoon workshops from 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (approx.). Most workshops will be held at regional technology centers, with the exception of Stillwater (OSU), Norman (OU), and Sulphur (county extension office building). Computer lab space at these facilities is limited, with typically room for only 12-18 attendees. We may be able to accommodate several more folks if some attendees bring their own laptops.

This fall there will be both a **beginning** class for those new to OK-FIRE, and, for the first time, an **advanced** class for those who have already attended an OK-FIRE workshop in the past.

The **beginning** class will give a general overview of OK-FIRE, including the weather, fire, and smoke sections of the web site and the fire prescription planner. It will also serve as a good refresher course for those who haven't attended in a while, and we will go over new features and products on the web site to be released this fall.

The **advanced** class will concentrate on topics related to the fire danger model, including details of its operation, the importance of satellite-measured vegetation greenness, fuel moisture, and the role of fuel models. This fall the user will have the ability to choose one of 11 fuel models at a given Mesonet location for use with the fire model. We will also go into nature and limitations of weather forecasts in some depth, including the NAM model which is used in OK-FIRE as well as National Weather Service forecasts. Other topics will also be covered.

To register, contact Melissa Moore (melissa.s.moore@okstate.edu, 405-744-5431). In your response, please specify the location/date of the training in which you're interested and which workshop (beginning or advanced) you'd like to attend. Please note that the advanced workshop is intended for those who have already attended an OK-FIRE workshop in the past. If you would like to attend both a beginning and advanced workshop (in that order) this fall, that is acceptable. Also please provide Melissa with YOUR contact information, including name, agency or fire department (if any), phone number(s), and e-mail address. Since space is limited in these workshops and we may need to shift some people, please indicate (if possible) a second choice location/date for your workshop.

The computer workshops will be filled on a **first register, first serve** basis. There is no cost for attending these workshops, outside of travel costs to the facility hosting the training session. More information about the training (including directions) and your assigned session will be sent out about a week before the session date.

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