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Drought Emergency Declared For Oklahoma

The first step necessary to move drought-stricken Oklahoma toward possible federal assistance has been taken. Gov. Mary Fallin issued an executive order Monday declaring a state of emergency in all 77 Oklahoma counties due to extreme or exceptional drought conditions. Her order allows state agencies to make emergency purchases related to disaster relief and preparedness. Fallin says extreme heat and dry conditions are affecting the entire state. So far, 47 Oklahoma counties have declared countywide burn bans because of the drought. Fallin's executive order says the State Emergency Operations Plan has been activated and that her administration will help provide whatever assistance it can as Oklahoma communities cope with the drought. The state of emergency will last for 30 days but can be amended based on conditions on the ground.

Associated Press