

Climatological Survey, Oklahoma (74 O.S. § 245)

(Under direction and supervision of Board of Regents of University of Oklahoma.)

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www.climate.ok.gov

Mission Statement To acquire, archive, process, and disseminate, in the most cost-effective way possible, all climate and weather information of value to policy and decision-makers in the state.

Administration Kevin Kloesel, Ph.D., Interim Director; Renee A. McPherson, Ph.D., Associate Director and State Climatologist

History and Function The Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) is a state agency mandated to acquire, archive, process, and disseminate, in the most cost-effective way possible, all climate and weather information of value to policy and decision-makers in the state. OCS was first established by the University of Oklahoma in 1980 to serve as a supporting structure for the state climatologist. The state legislature in 1982 formalized the OCS's existence with enabling legislation. Re-created until July 1, 2012.

Since 1991 the OCS has been the operational home of the Oklahoma Mesonet (www.mesonet.org), the state's weather network, designed and implemented by the University of Oklahoma (OU) and Oklahoma State University (OSU). The addition of the Mesonet expanded OCS's role from retrospective climate studies to supporting real-time weather-impacted decisions. OCS initiated outreach programs for Oklahoma's K-12 teachers and public safety agencies in 1992 and 1996, respectively, and provides additional decision-support tools in support of rural electric cooperatives and agriculture.

OCS provides tailored information to address particular needs for Oklahoma's citizens and state and local decision-makers. OCS scientists utilize all available weather and climate information, both historical and real-time, to assist citizens and state decision-makers with understanding current weather conditions and historical circumstances of weather events and climate variability. By integrating weather and climate information from multiple data sources, OCS relieves other state agencies of the necessity to have expertise on staff to assemble and evaluate the multiple information sources. OCS climatologists provide similar expert assessments for citizens of Oklahoma.

OCS is located at OU in Norman, and is under the governance of the OU Board of Regents. OCS is home to the state climatologist. The director of OCS is appointed by the OU Board of Regents, based upon recommendations by a search committee conducted within the OU College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences and School of Meteorology. The director also serves as co-chair of the Mesonet Steering Committee.

Climate Services

climate.mesonet.org

Mark Shafer, Director of Climate Services, 405/325-3044

K-12 Educational Outreach

earthstorm.mesonet.org

Andrea Melvin, Program Manager, 405/325-2652

OK-First Public Safety Outreach

okfirst.mesonet.org

Nicole Giuliano, Program Manager, 405/325-3230

The Oklahoma Mesonet (Partnership with OSU, College of Agricultural & Natural Resources)

www.mesonet.org

Chris Fiebrich, Associate Director for Mesonet; 405/325-6877