

Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update

May 2, 2025

The following information on the Flint Hills wildland fires is provided weekly to keep stakeholders up to date on fires, smoke, and air quality.



<https://www.KSFire.org/>



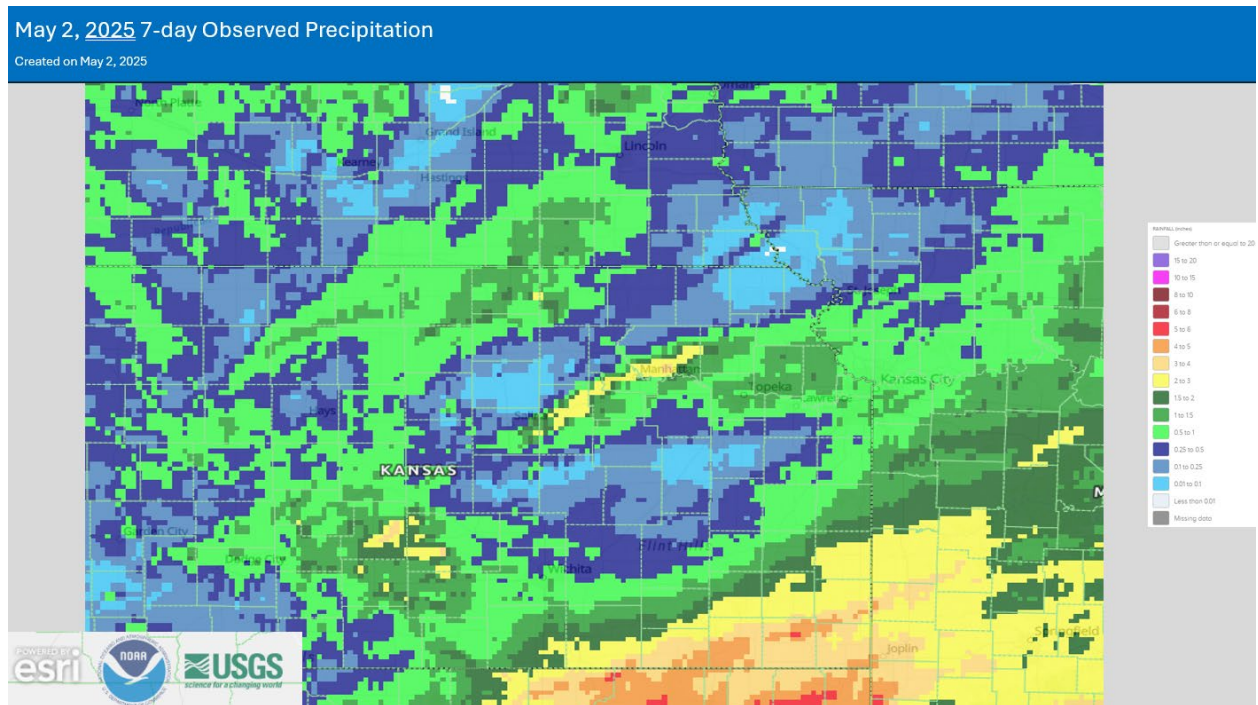
This website was developed as part of the development of the Kansas Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan. Kansas State University hosts the webpage, and it includes important information for ranchers and others who might be interested in the Flint Hills. It provides training, regulations, policies, publications, a modeling tool and other links to guide people looking for information on smoke management. The development of the Flint Hills Smoke Management Plan is an attempt to balance the need for prescribed fire in the Flint Hills with the need for clean air in downwind areas.



Meteorology

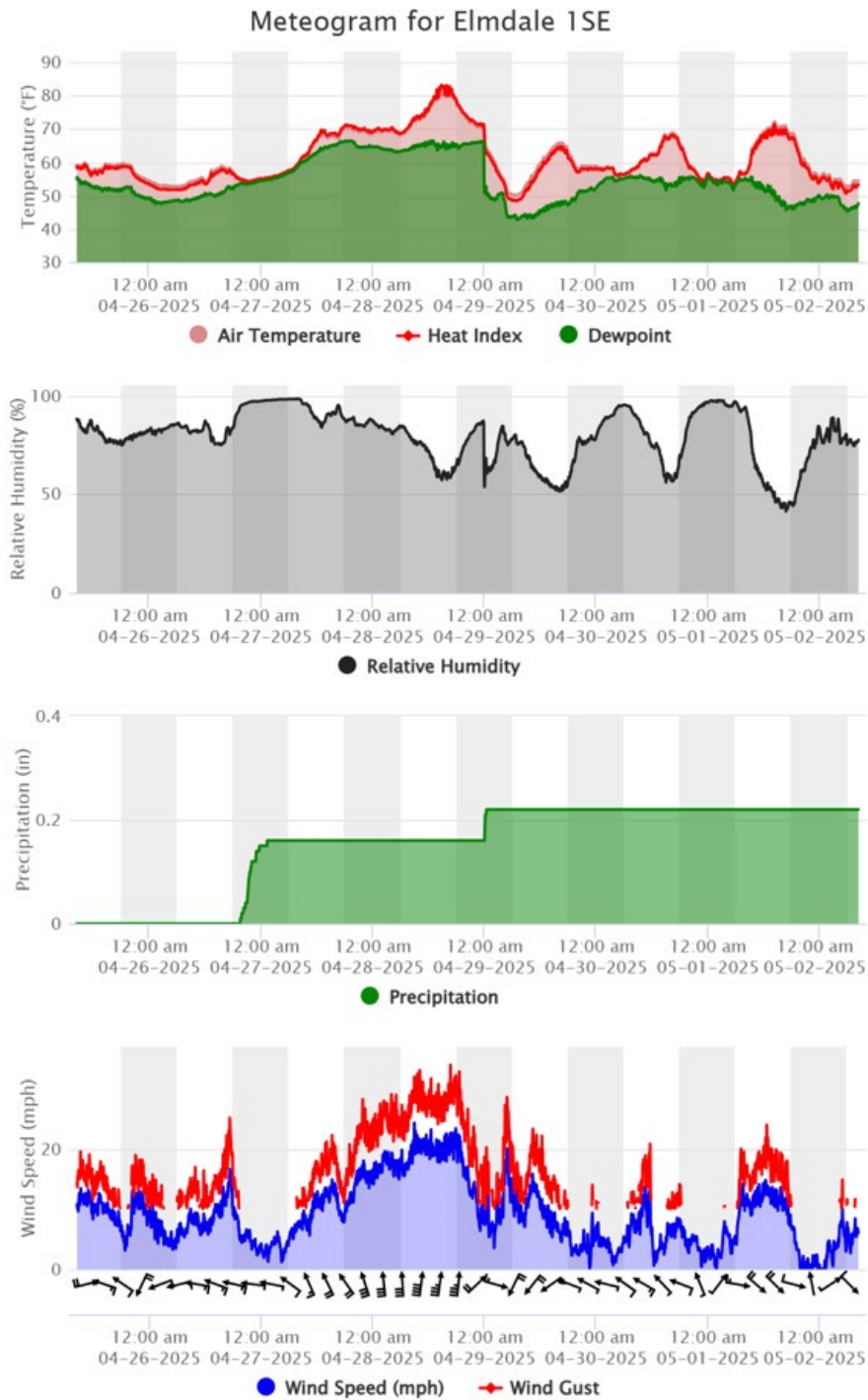
Cool temperatures in the lower-60s and mostly cloudy skies with a few sprinkles were observed last Friday (April 25) across the region. Moderate winds blew from the north-northwest (10-15 mph) for most of the day. Continued cool temperatures in the mid-50s occurred on Saturday (April 26) under cloudy skies. Winds were light from the northeast early before becoming easterly by early afternoon and light rain developed overnight. Mostly cloudy skies, occasional light rain or drizzle and east-southeast winds of 5-15 mph and temperatures warming throughout the day into the upper-60s were the rule on Sunday (April 27). Cloudy conditions gave way to scattered thunderstorms by late evening on Monday (April 28) with temperatures warming to the upper-70s by afternoon with gusty south-southwest winds (15-25 mph). Tuesday (April 29) saw variable cloudiness and winds mainly from the north throughout the day (10-15 mph) and temperatures in the mid-60s. Wednesday (April 30), winds were light and variable at 5-10 mph. Cloudy skies ruled throughout the day and temperatures were mainly in the mid-60s. Thursday (May 1) saw partly cloudy skies after scattered early morning rain and highs in the lower-70s. Winds were light early, then westerly at 5-15 mph. Most areas of Kansas received precipitation (>.10 inch) over the last week. Heavier precipitation (2.50 to 4.5 inch) occurred over southern and southeast Kansas and parts of western Kansas.

Precipitation



NOAA/NWS Observed Total Precip. for April 25-May 2, 2025.

Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update



7-day (April 25-May 2, 2025) Observed Weather from the Kansas Mesonet station near Elmdale, Kansas (<https://mesonet.k-state.edu/>)



Fire, Smoke, and Air Quality

For the period of April 25 – May 1, 2025, there were no air quality exceedance that were potentially influenced by prescribed fire within the Flint Hills.

Ozone: Preliminary data indicates no exceedances of the NAAQS daily 8-hour average maximum of 70 ppb.

PM_{2.5}: Preliminary data indicates no exceedances of the NAAQS daily 24-hour average maximum of 35 µg/m³.

Prescribed fire activity was limited throughout the past week with occasional rainfall, cloud cover, and breezy conditions. There were only scattered fires observed throughout the week in the Flint Hills which may indicate that the prescribed fire window for most has closed for the season. Significant green-up with new grass growth has occurred throughout the Flint Hills and the calendar moving into May certainly signifies the end of prescribed fire use for a vast majority of fire practitioners.

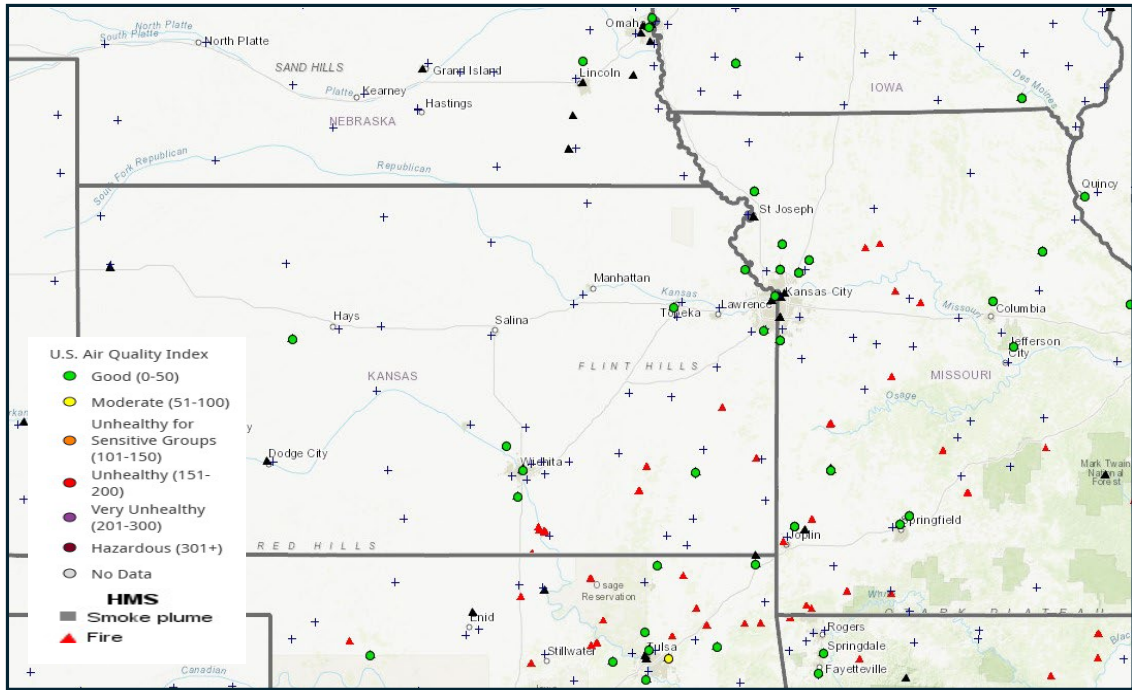
Air quality during the past week was Good to Moderate across the region with only some elevated values in ozone and particulate matter. Areas of smoke and dust that moved across the region during the week were likely from areas of Mexico and Central America.

The following pages have two maps for each day; One showing the 24-hour average Air Quality Index category for PM_{2.5} and the other showing the 8-hour average maximum Air Quality Index category for Ozone from regulatory air quality monitors in the region. Both maps show fires and smoke as analyzed by NOAA Hazard Mapping Services.

Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update



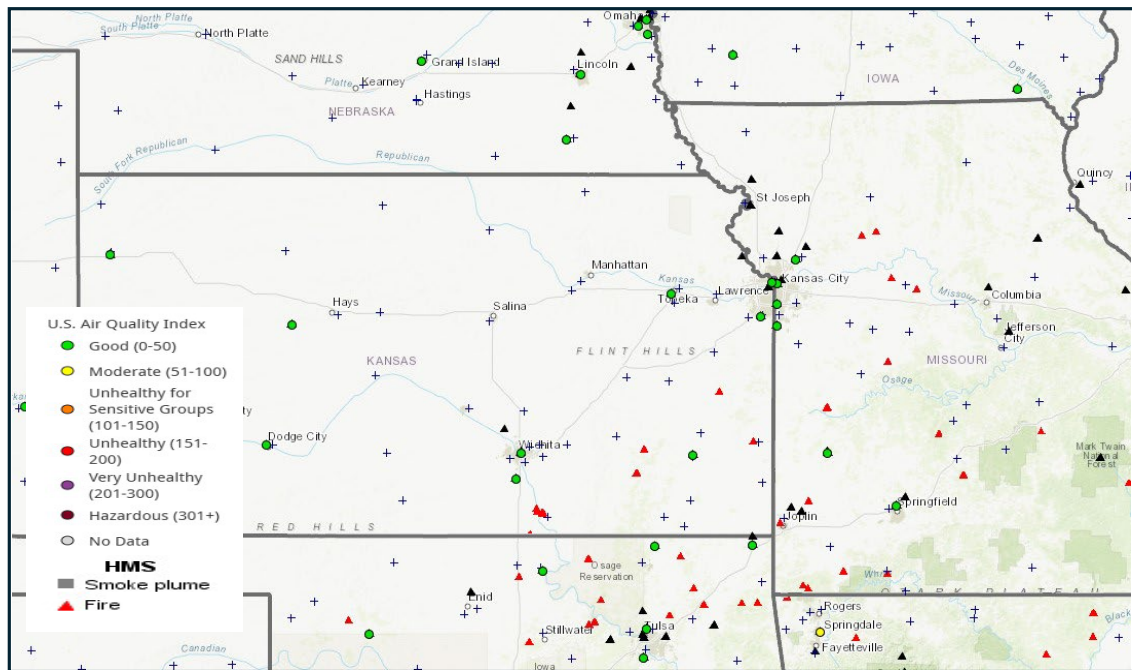
Fire, Smoke and Ozone Air Quality Index April 25, 2025



Map: Douglas Watson, KDHE Bureau of Air

Fire and Smoke Data: NOAA HMS Fire and Smoke Product; Air Quality Data: EPA Air Now

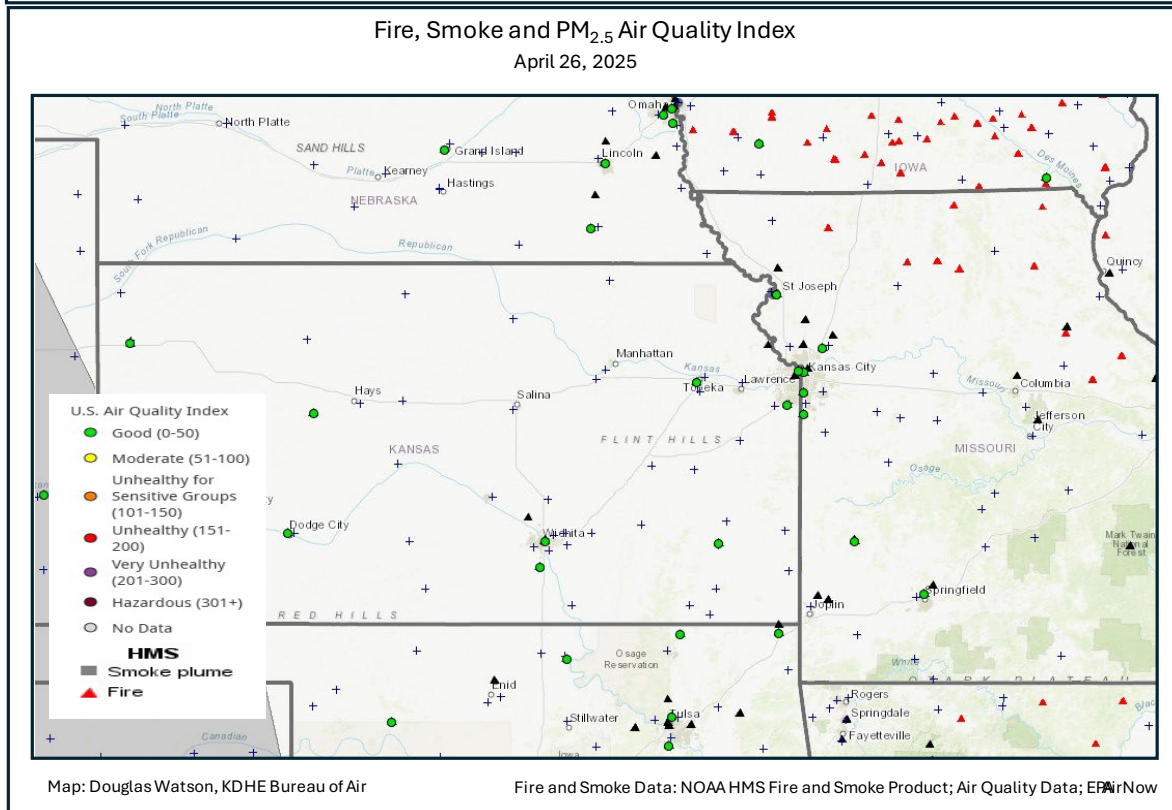
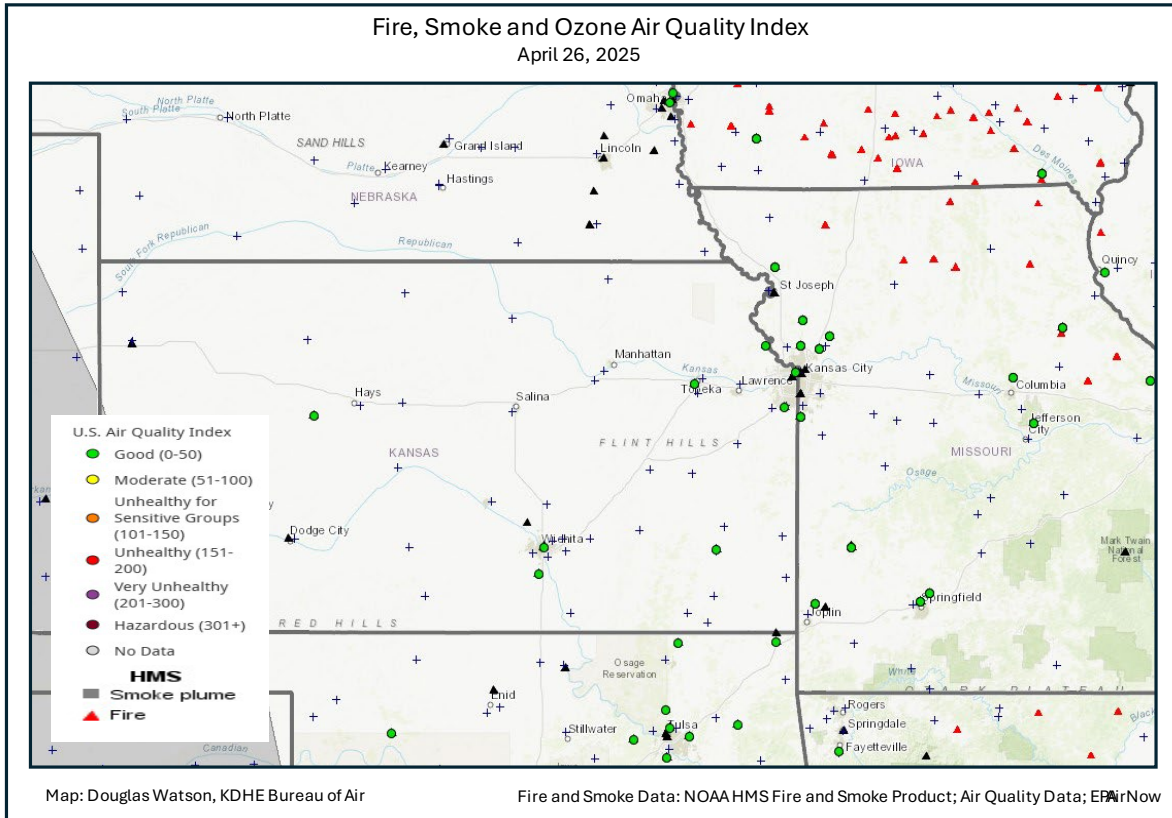
Fire, Smoke and PM_{2.5} Air Quality Index April 25, 2025



Map: Douglas Watson, KDHE Bureau of Air

Fire and Smoke Data: NOAA HMS Fire and Smoke Product; Air Quality Data: EPA Air Now

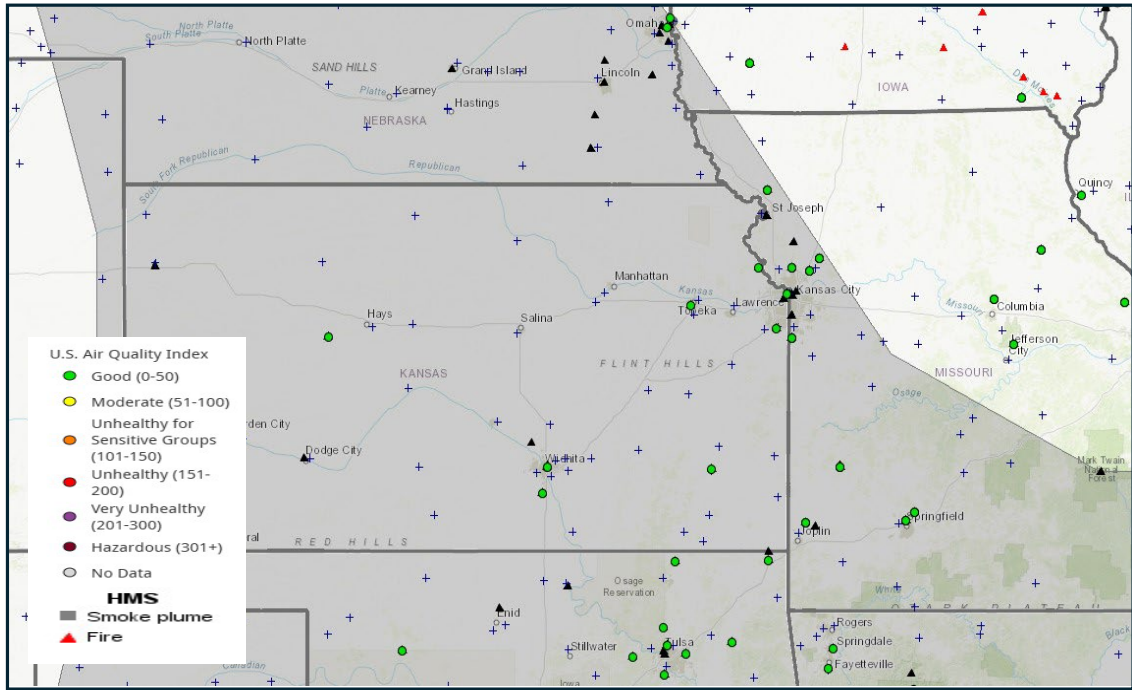
Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update



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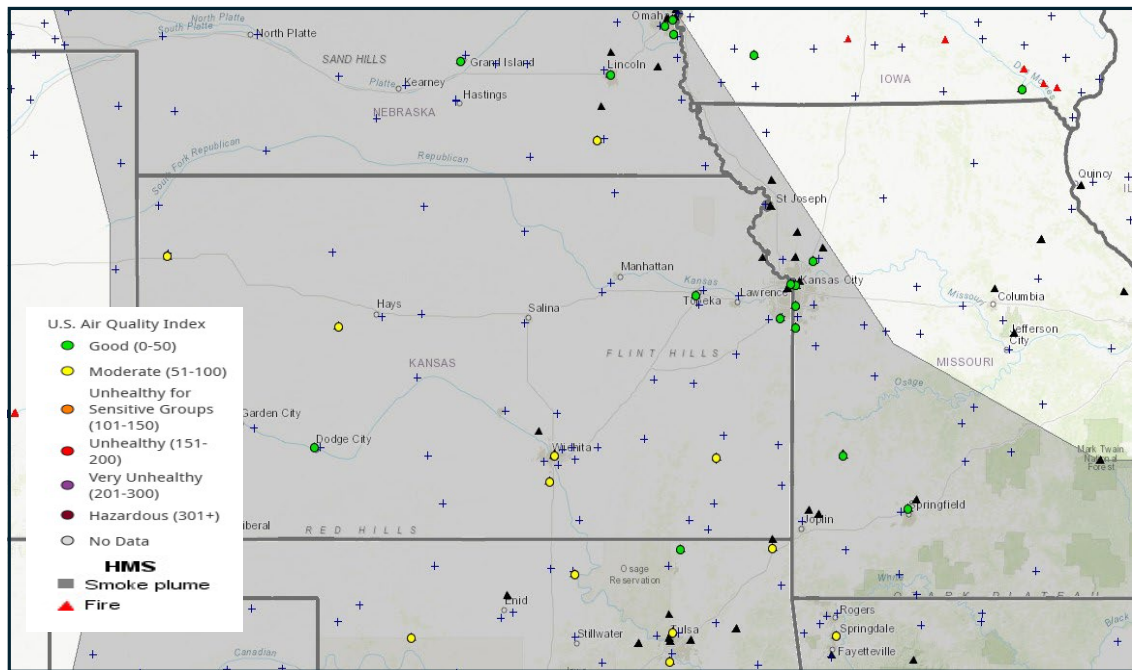
Fire, Smoke and Ozone Air Quality Index April 27, 2025



Map: Douglas Watson, KDHE Bureau of Air

Fire and Smoke Data: NOAA HMS Fire and Smoke Product; Air Quality Data: EPA Air Now

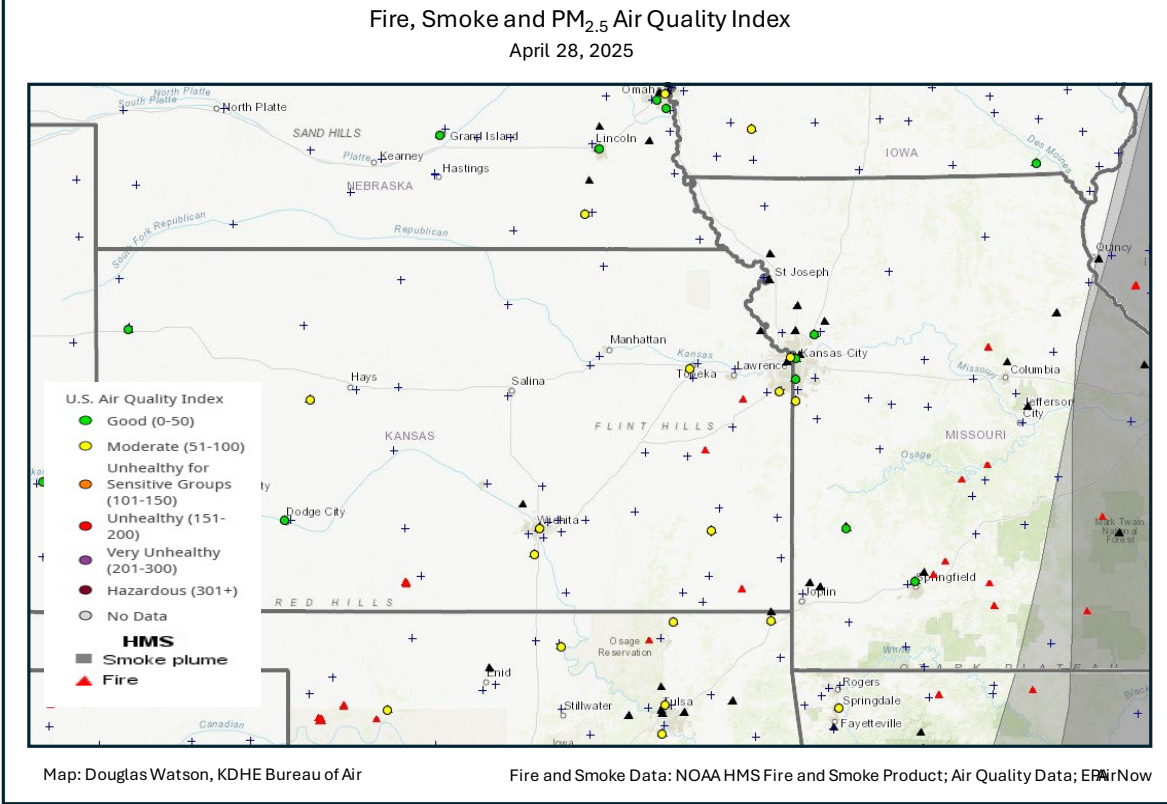
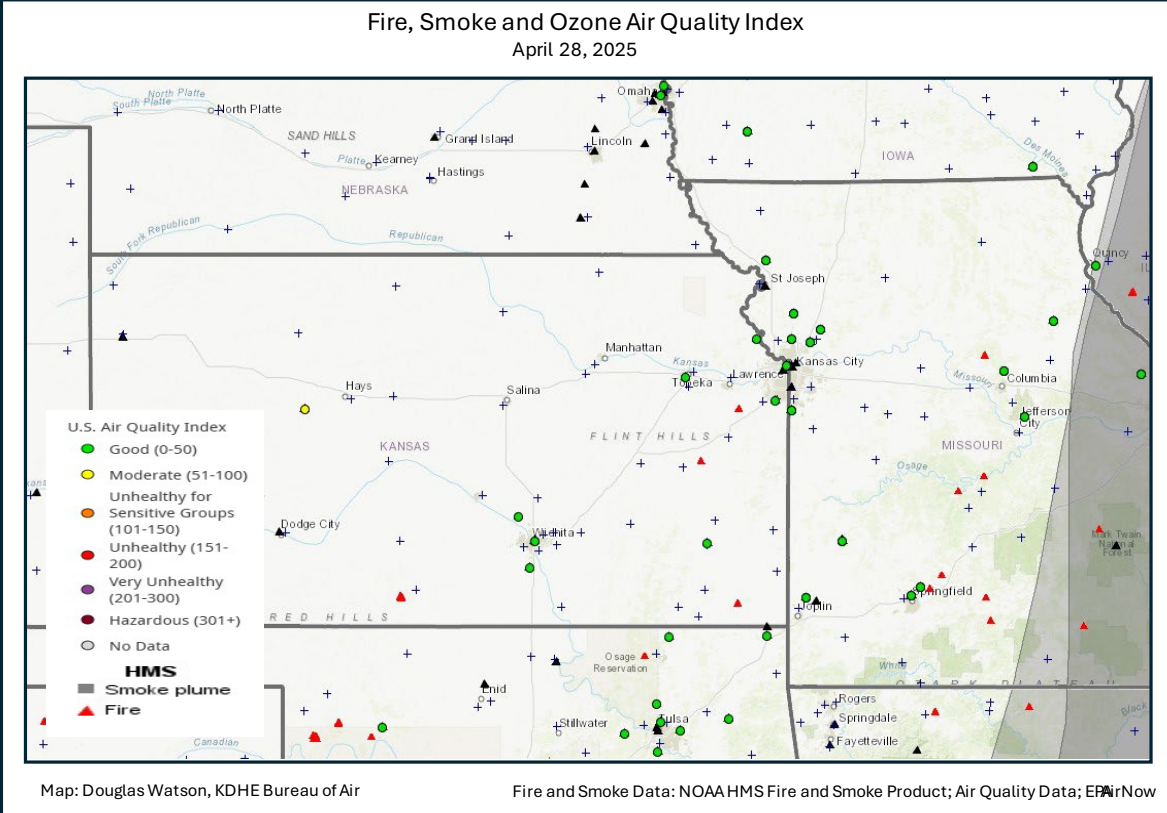
Fire, Smoke and PM_{2.5} Air Quality Index April 27, 2025



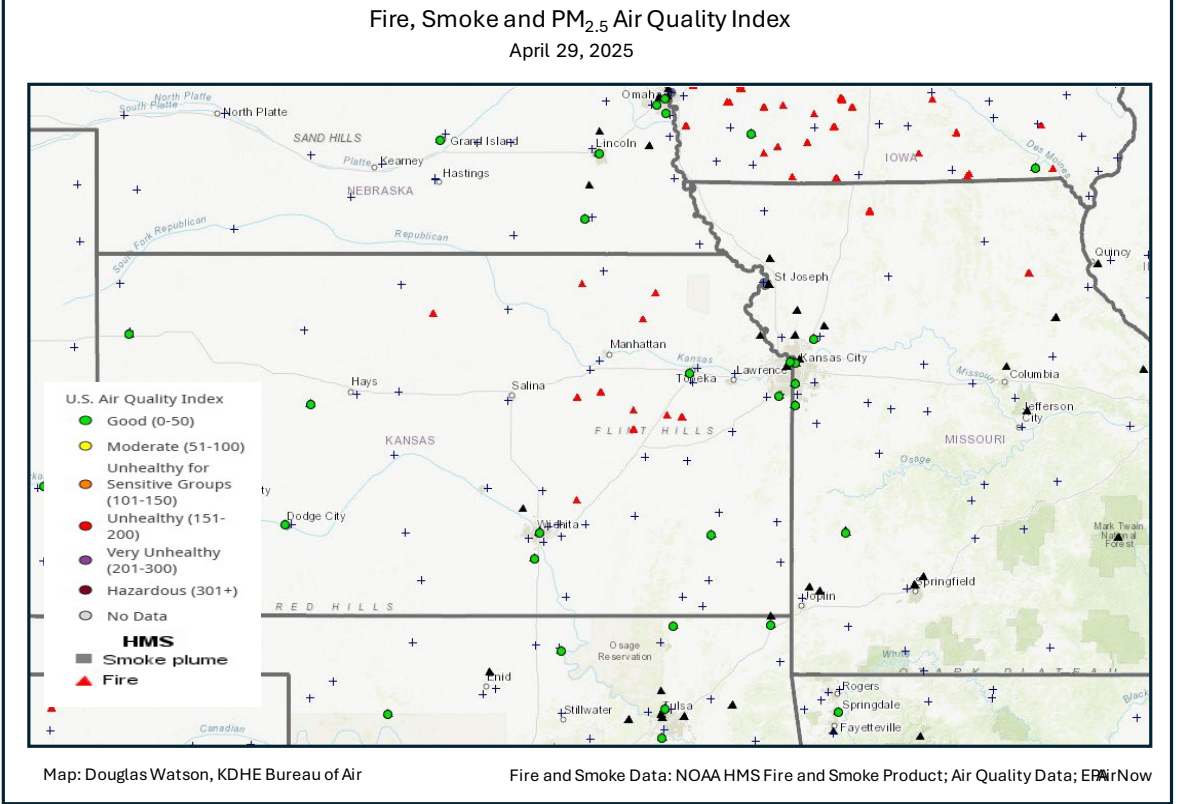
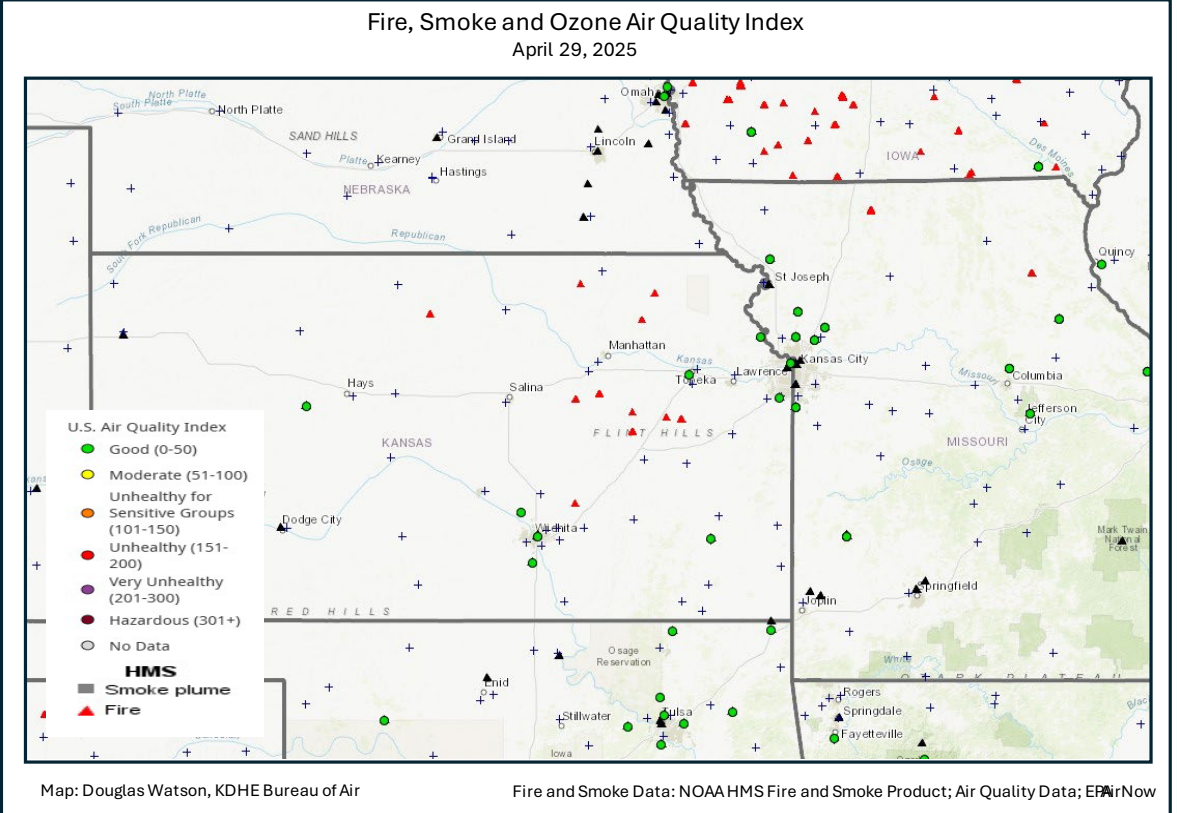
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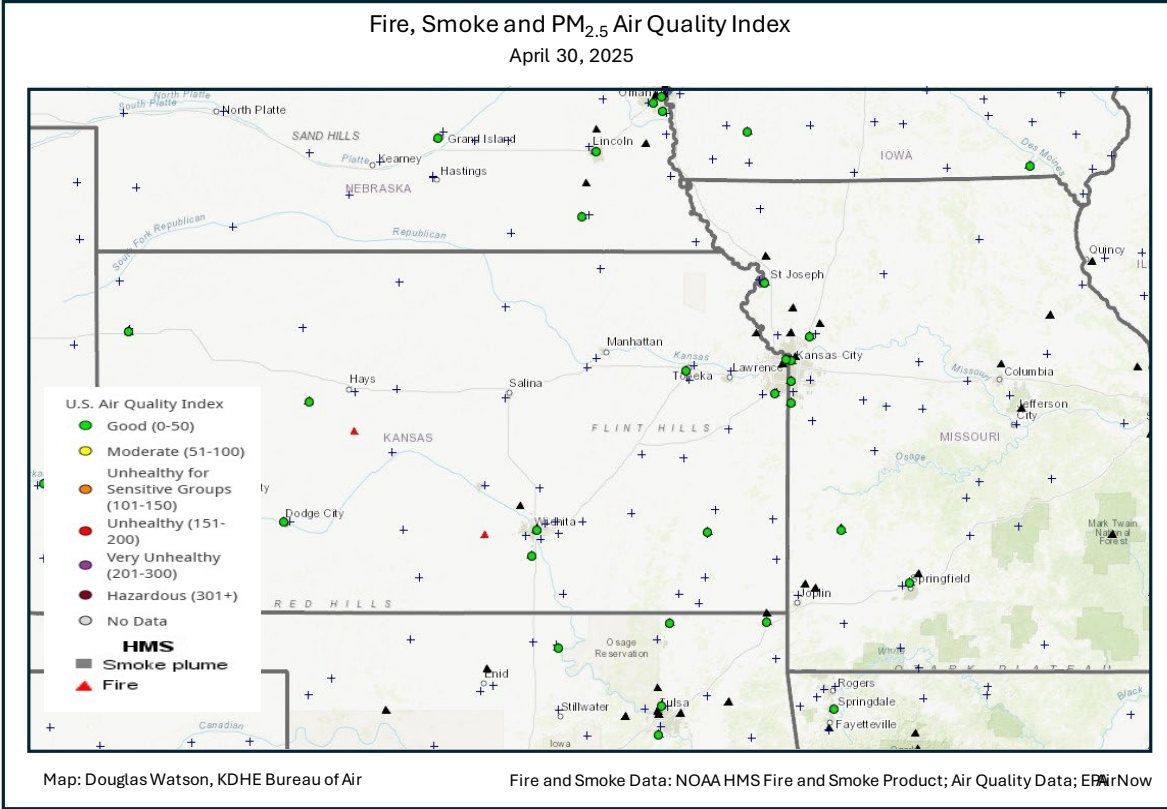
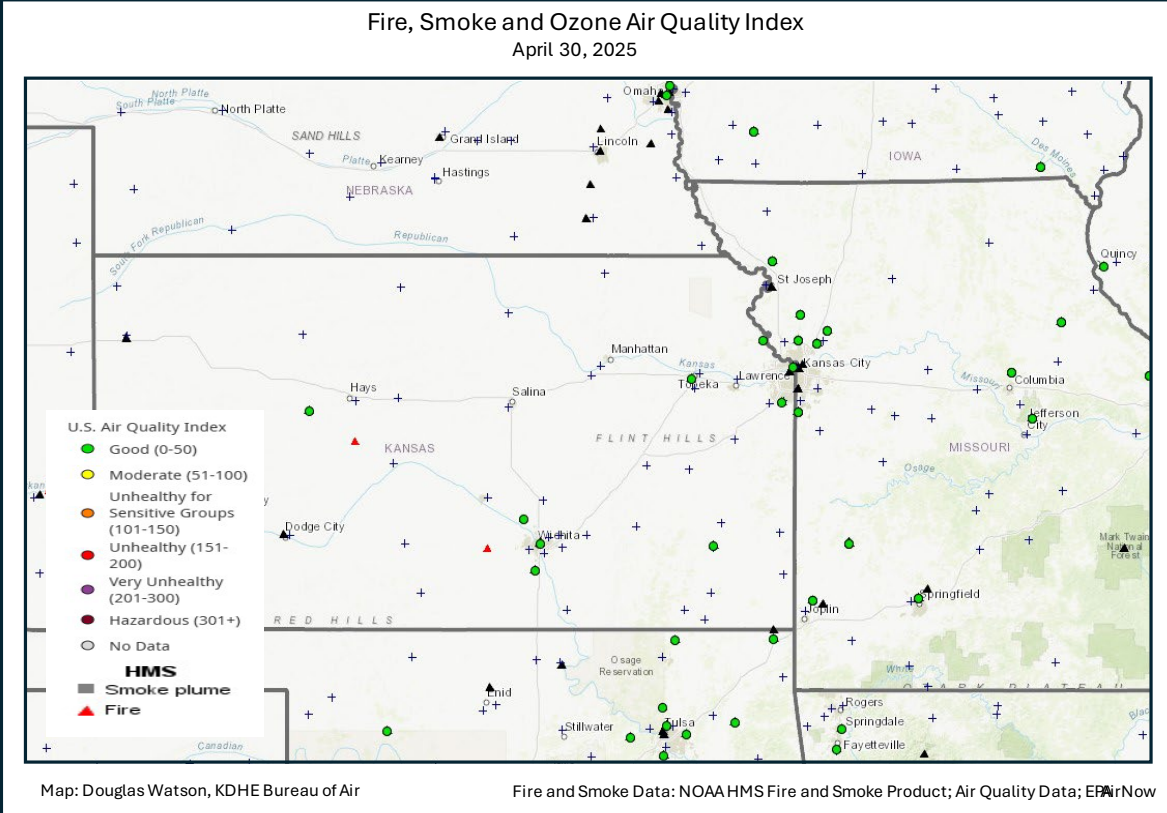
Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update



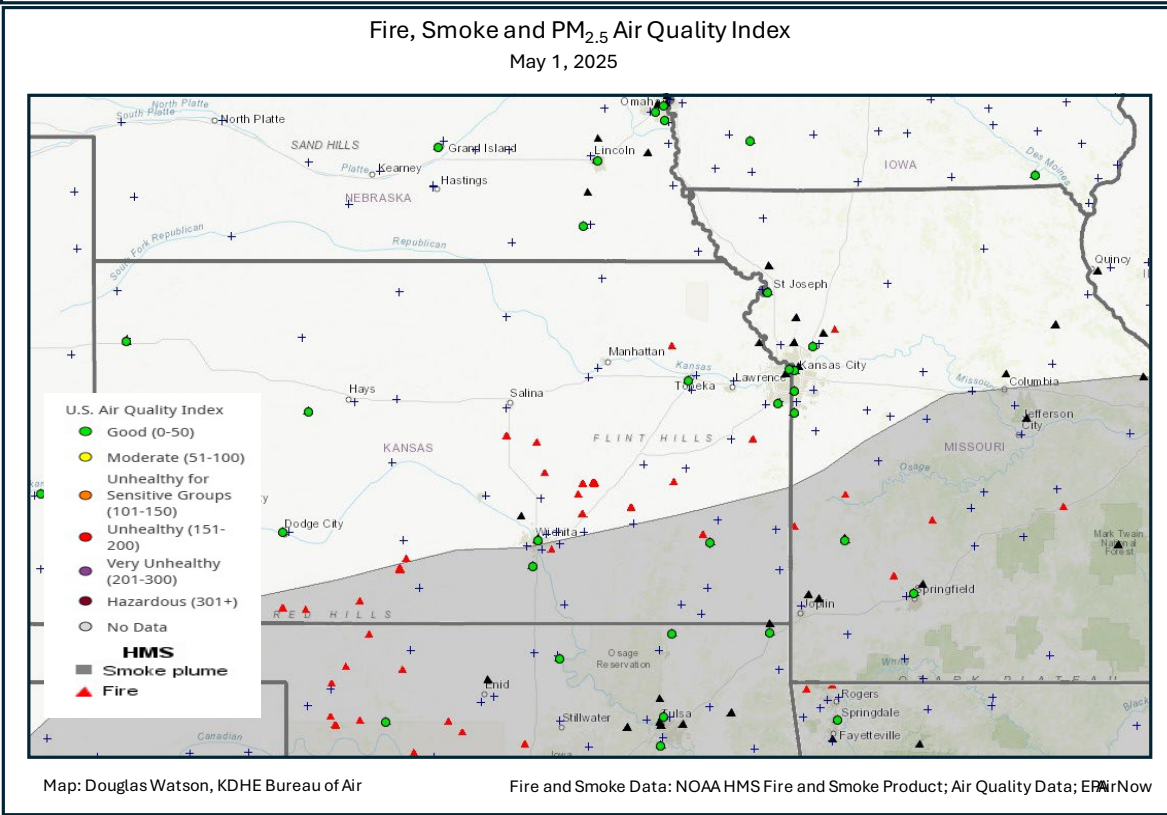
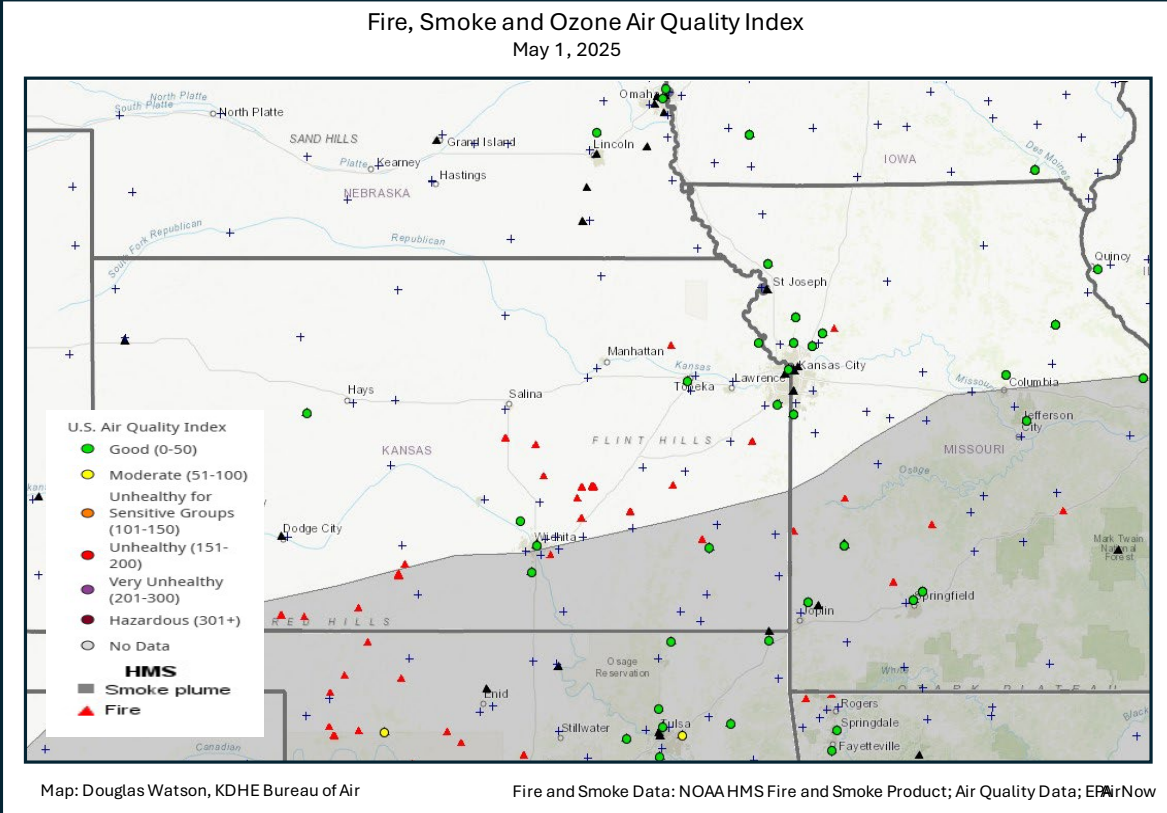
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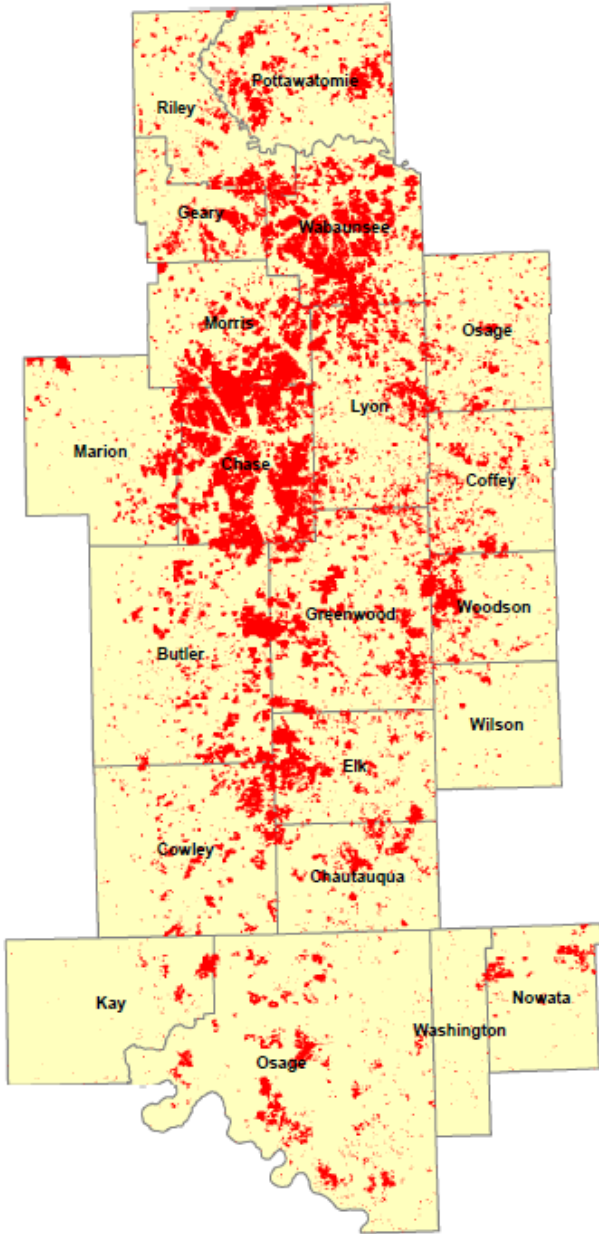


Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update





Flint Hills Acreage Burned (March 5 – April 22, 2025)



<u>Counties</u>	<u>Acres Burned</u>	
Butler	129,795	*
Chase	286,339	
Chautauqua	44,402	
Coffey	55,430	*
Cowley	75,662	
Elk	83,137	
Geary	50,117	
Greenwood	161,456	*
Lyon	128,095	*
Marion	50,503	*
Morris	132,235	
Osage (KS)	43,074	*
Pottawatomie	88,620	*
Riley	54,070	*
Wabaunsee	214,476	
Wilson	7,830	
Woodson	48,634	
Nowata (OK)	22,163	
Osage (OK)	99,245	
Washington (OK)	2,904	
Kay (OK)	13,406	
Total	1,791,593	
* Denotes county was partly or completely covered by clouds during latest analysis.		

Flint Hills Wildland Fire Update



This is the final routine weekly update for the 2025 spring prescribed fire period in the Flint Hills. The acres burned map included in this weekly report may be the last map produced this year as the Flint Hills region was covered with clouds on the days of April 23-28 and analysis could not occur. A full summary with historical comparisons and a review of air quality throughout the spring period will be provided at a later date.

For more information, contact:

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