



- 1        1. To enforce the provisions of this code and other forest and  
2 forest protection laws of this state;
- 3        2. To prevent, detect, extinguish, and investigate wildfires in  
4 this state;
- 5        3. To provide wildfire fighting crews, who shall be under the  
6 control and direction of forest rangers and other designated agents  
7 of the Division;
- 8        4. To appoint district foresters, assistant district foresters,  
9 investigators, rangers, and other employees;
- 10       5. To use the resources of the Division on state-owned parks  
11 and other state-administered lands to prevent and suppress fires and  
12 to establish fire fighting crews who shall be authorized to suppress  
13 fires on state lands;
- 14       6. To be reimbursed on an actual cost basis for all services  
15 provided to state parks and other lands administered by the State of  
16 Oklahoma;
- 17       7. To investigate cases of forest timber theft;
- 18       8. To make available for sale surplus state vehicles directly  
19 to rural fire departments or municipal fire departments, in cities  
20 or towns under ten thousand (10,000) population. State vehicles may  
21 be offered for sale only after approval is given in writing by the  
22 Department of Central Services and an evaluation is made of each  
23 vehicle and a price set by the Department of Central Services. The

1 Forestry Division may only receive the amount authorized by the  
2 Department of Central Services for the sale of the vehicle; ~~and~~

3 9. To purchase equipment from the Rural Fire Defense Equipment  
4 Revolving Fund's inventory, when advantageous to the state, and to  
5 reimburse the Revolving Fund; and

6 10. To provide oversight of volunteer rural fire departments by  
7 Rural Fire Coordinators employed by the Rural Fire Defense Program,  
8 including the authority to conduct audits of the volunteer rural  
9 fire departments. Audits shall be coordinated and paid for by the  
10 Division.

11 B. Forest rangers, and the firefighting crews under their  
12 control and direction, may enter upon any lands for the purpose of  
13 preventing and suppressing wildfires and to enforce the provisions  
14 of the Oklahoma Forestry Code and other wildfire and forest  
15 protection laws of this state.

16 C. Forest rangers, employees of the Division, and all persons  
17 under contract or agreement with the Division to assist in fire  
18 fighting operations, as well as persons called upon by forest  
19 rangers or other authorized employees of the Division to assist in  
20 fire fighting under the direction or supervision of employees of the  
21 Division, may, in the performance of their duties, set backfires,  
22 dig trenches, cut firelines, and carry on all customary activities

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1 in the fighting of wildfires without incurring liability to any  
2 person.

3 D. 1. The Director may appoint, subject to the approval of the  
4 Board, special officers who shall have the power and authority to  
5 arrest. The special officers shall have power and authority  
6 throughout the state, under the direction and control of the  
7 Division, to enforce the criminal provisions contained in the  
8 Oklahoma Forestry Code, other laws relating to forests and  
9 wildfires, and the Oklahoma Agricultural Code.

10 2. The special officers shall have power and authority to make  
11 arrests with or without warrants for violations of the criminal  
12 provisions of the Oklahoma Forestry Code, other laws relating to  
13 forests and wildfires, and the Oklahoma Agricultural Code to the  
14 same extent and under the same limitations and duties as peace  
15 officers under the provisions of Title 22, Chapter 3 of the Oklahoma  
16 Statutes.

17 3. In connection with the enforcement of the criminal  
18 provisions, the special officers and other state investigators or  
19 law enforcement officers may go upon all premises when necessary for  
20 the enforcement of laws. All special officers shall be ex officio  
21 forest rangers and shall be under the control and direction of the  
22 Division; except, the Director may at any time, for cause, remove  
23 any powers and authority of arrest conferred. Special officers

1 shall have the same right and authority to carry arms as the  
2 sheriffs of this state. The compensation of special officers shall  
3 be fixed and paid by the Division from its funds.

4 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
5 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
6 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
7 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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9 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated  
10 02-24-2011 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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