



By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Imperial firefighters suited up in some hot weather for fire calls to the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department Friday through Monday.

Grass fires and a fire in hay bales called the department out numerous times those four days, during which temperatures exceeded 100 degrees on Saturday.

Fire Chief Bryan Dannatt said the first grass fire, on Friday, was started by an electrical short. About 30 acres of grass southwest of Imperial near the Dundy County line burned. The firefighters were out about two hours, he said.

On Saturday, the Imperial, Lamar and Haigler fire departments were called to two grass fires about one and one-half miles apart in Dundy County. Dannatt guessed that the first fire burned about 20 acres, while the second one, burning at the same time, consumed about 100 acres.

The fire department was out about four hours on those calls.

Sunday, a grass fire was reported on the Champion Highway near the Ed Cupp residence. The cause of the fire, which burned about one acre, was unknown, Dannatt said. The Lamar Volunteer Fire Department also responded to that fire.

Monday, the fire department was called to a fire in hay bales at the German feedlot on the Champion Highway. Dannatt said spontaneous combustion most likely was the cause of the fire that burned 50-75 bales of hay.

Firefighters were on the scene for about five hours. Dannatt said an ambulance was also on the scene in case the extreme heat caused any medical problems among firemen.

"It's been a stressful couple of days," Dannatt observed. "I'm proud of the guys."

He said the newest fire engine, a tanker, is out of commission at the moment, so the Lamar crew is being called in to help with the fires.