

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Members of the Imperial Volunteer Fire Department (IVFD) are unsure what started the fire last Wednesday, Oct. 3, on the north side of Enders Lake.

Fire Chief Nick Schultz said there was no lightning in the area prior to the 6:50 p.m. call, but the fire started in grass next to a trail road. It burned into trees covering a couple of acres on Nebraska Game & Parks ground.

Because of the thickness of the trees, firefighters were forced to pull hand lines off their pumper truck to get to the blaze, making it difficult to extinguish, Schultz said.

The Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department was called in on mutual aid, bringing two tanker trucks of water to the scene.

Both the Imperial and Wauneta departments sent their two tankers back to their home communities to refill.

Firefighters were on the scene about three hours.

Earlier in the day Oct. 3, the IVFD was called to south-central Chase County to a reported fire, but it turned out to be a dust cloud in the heavy winds.