

Frequent fire calls continue, threat remains high

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 05 July 2012 13:18 -

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department continues to be busy as the threat of fire remains critical. The recent appearance of rain was very welcomed, but has not alleviated the danger of fire.

“It is still very important to be careful where you drive, with cigarette butts, and other fire hazards. Even a substantial rain will not alleviate the danger of fire because the grasses are so dry it will take time to get them green again,” says WVFD fire chief Donny Allen.

The WVFD has kept busy this past week with four fire calls, even with a little help from the rain on Saturday.

Wednesday, June 27 assistant fire chief Bob Goings led the fire crew during a grass fire on the north divide on land owned by Wesley Wheeler. The fire burned approximately 30-35 acres of grass. The cause of the fire is unknown.

They took another trip up north on Thursday, June 28 this time to another grass fire on land owned by Rex Kerchal, Don Haffner and Lynn Hamilton. The fire burned approximately 150 acres. Goings indicated the cause of the fire is unknown, but that sparks from an electrical transformer may have been the cause.

Saturday was another busy day for the WVFD as they were called out to two more grass fires. The first was on the north divide at DeWayne and Patti Fanning's place. Lightning struck near

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their barn and burned a small patch of grass before the rain started and put it out, even before the fire department had time to get there.

The second fire on Saturday was on the south divide in a canyon west of Gary Doetker's. Allen indicated that lightning was most likely the cause of the blaze, which was also put out by the rain.

WVFD was also called for mutual aid at a fire north of North Platte on Saturday but were unable to go because they were out on calls locally.

Allen said that he has heard several reports of other fires started by the lightning which were put out by people without the aid of the fire department although he had no details on the other fires.