

By Tim Linscott

Managing Editor

A quick response from Venango firefighters helped prevent a combine fire from being a disaster.

Hot, dry and windy conditions on Monday, Sept. 30 helped a combine fire five miles outside of Venango spread to a nearby cornfield.

Steve Tucker, Venango Volunteer Fire Department Chief, reports that around 3 p.m. on Monday a combine fire was called in and a quick response of 12 firemen helped contain the flames.

An electrical short caught the combine on fire, which eventually spread to a nearby cornfield, burning approximately two acres of corn.

Tucker estimated damages to the corn and combine to be between \$10,000-\$20,000. Armin Rutter of Holyoke, Colo., farms the property where the fire started.

Three trucks responded and the Grant department was called in for thermal imaging to find hot spots in the combine. The combine was eventually doused with a foaming agent that put all hot areas out.

Tucker had a simple reminder for people out in the fields during this time of year.

“I hope people take care of their equipment and keep it clean during hot, dry conditions. If we had more wind that day, we may have lost a lot more acres,” Tucker said.