

Garden City Co-op & Western Transport Assist in Fighting Haskell/Stevens Co. Fire



Garden City Co-op and Western Transport employees assisted fire departments from the area Sunday in subduing a large wildfire in southwest Haskell and northwest Stevens counties. This large fire fueled by dry conditions and extremely high winds destroyed 10,000 acres and damaged several homes.

Employees of the Garden City Co-op's Low Crop Production and Western Transport divisions responded by sending seven transports loaded with water to supply fire trucks in the area southwest of Satanta. "This is just another example of the high quality, caring, and giving spirit of our employee group. I'm truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with these individuals each day" said Brent Merz, CFO of the Garden City Co-op.

Mike Folk, mayor of Satanta, and officials from the Haskell County Sheriff's office also expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the efforts of GCC and Western Transport. Said Folk, "With the weather conditions, it was essential that the firefighters had a resupply of water in a timely manner. Having the transports from Garden City certainly had a dramatic impact."

A special thanks to Derek Bownes, VP of Transportation and Tim Giesick, VP of Crop Production for organizing the effort. Also extra special thanks to the drivers who volunteered their Sunday; Matt Crase, Brandon Ochs, Roxanne Borsick, Justin Bohling, Robin Russell, and Dave Luetters. Also instrumental in organizing the efforts were Pete Maestas and Jan Cornett.