

A poem the Team received from Joe Nunn of the Six Bar Ranch, Harrison, Nebraska

### Wild Fire on the Ridge

The air was dry and the sky was clear  
No moisture had fallen for what seemed like a year  
One hundred degrees had become the norm  
Even the nights were staying too warm.

In late July this was what Sioux County had to face  
The conditions for disaster were all in place  
The only things missing were a wind and a spark  
And these made their appearance on Wednesday just before dark.

A little dry cloud no bigger than your hat  
Came out of Wyoming, drifting slowly to where we sat  
White hot bolts of lightning came straight to the ground  
No rumble of thunder, just an awful sound.

Thursday the fires didn't look good  
The local volunteers did all they could  
Some had been out on the line for twelve hours  
The ladies fixed lunches and cold drinks, and prayed for showers.

Friday was a prelude of things to come  
Mutual aid crews were pouring in, giving needed rest to some  
The weather forecast was bad, extreme heat and high wind!  
Fatigue and frustration became an enemy too, was there no end?

The fires seemed to have a mind of their own  
At times burning as fiercely against the wind, almost unknown  
Like some giant wild animal that refuses to be cornered  
Always looking for an opening to make a dash for freedom.

Saturday and Sunday were more of the same, no rain  
The population of Harrison tripled, such growth will never be seen again  
Southwest Area Management Team set up in the High School  
Tankers, dozers, graders and manpower, stay out of the way, don't be a fool.

To an innocent bystander it looked like organized chaos  
Each individual, leader and team had a job, there was no loss  
The fires still burned, but gradually perimeters were laid  
Still preparing for the worst, plans were made

Monday and Tuesday saw changes that were in favor  
Slurry bombers and more helicopters arrived with drops that were a saver  
Mother Nature helped, too. With higher humidity and temperatures lower  
It finally looked like the worst was over.

The landscape has changed, much of the beauty is gone  
But the land is still there and the residents are strong  
Mother Nature seems to be able to heal after her destruction  
Scars remain in our minds and the ridge, in time will show reduction.

We are thankful that there were no fatalities or injuries  
Priorities of People, Structures and Property and those on their knees  
With the added training in safety practiced  
The ordeal was over at last.

Dedicated with gratitude  
To the firefighters, volunteers and other service agencies

8-14-06

Thank you Joe and Patty Nunn for your kind words and thoughts from all the TEAM.....