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About the Cover: Shoal Creek Fire Protection District, under the command of Assistant Chief Dave Caulk responded to ground fire near Donnellson, IL. On 10/17/20. Due to dry conditions, gusty winds and low humidity, the fire moved North to North East very quickly. The winds reached up to 40mph gusts with sustained speeds of 29 mph throughout the day. The fire jumped multiple fields, both standing crops/stubble and roadways. The fire stretched over a seven-mile area to the north/northeast and at its widest point was approximately four miles wide. One house was destroyed in the fire off of Illinois Route 185. One firefighter from Shoal Creek Fire was taken to the hospital due to smoke and debris in the eye.

Multiple agencies from several counties were called to assist to include: Montgomery, Christian, Macoupin, Fayette, Clinton, Bond and Macon Counties. Red Cross assisted with canteen services along with many locals, Montgomery County Health Dept., Lyndel Hardt of Litchfield and the Montgomery and Macoupin County ARES provided aerial support and communications to report information of the fire movement to ground command, CHS provided tanker water supply, M&M Fuel, Patton Minning, Jerry Spinner and Slattons Excavating, Goestengors Excavating and anyone else that assisted Area farmers from our communities also provided tractors and plow support to help get ahead of this very quick-moving fire. Their part was invaluable in controlling this fire.

Photos courtesy of Tyler Wesley, Witt, IL and Shoal Creek Fire Protection District



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