

MOSCOW (AP) — A large grass fire in Southwest Kansas has spread to thousands of bales of corn stalks stored at a facility in the Stevens County town of Moscow. KAKE-TV reports the fire broke out late Tuesday and involved about 50,000 corn stalk bales by Wednesday.

Moscow Mayor Billy Bell told the station that a bioenergy company had planned to use the stalks to produce ethanol.

Bell says firefighters have contained the blaze, which investigators believe was intentionally set.

The mayor also says no injuries have been reported and no structures were in danger, but residents have been told to prepare to evacuate if the wind changes direction.

Local farmers also have their irrigation systems on standby to help out if necessary.