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Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- After a relatively mild start to summer for temperatures and fire activity, forecasts for August suggest Ventura County could start seeing some days of triple-digit temperatures. Hot weather dries out vegetation and any morning dew evaporates earlier in the day. This increases the risk for brush fires. Open space areas that have not burned in more than a decade enhance that risk because there is more, denser vegetation that could help a less intense grass fire grow into a significant brush fire. Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant in maintaining defensible space around their homes, including mowing grass, trimming and removing dead vegetation and clearing gutters.
- Jr. Fire Academy wrapped up its third and final session of the year August 1. About 90 teens got to experience a bit of what it's like to be a firefighter. They learned to fight fire with hand tools and hoses, to rappel off a training tower and how to move in confined spaces to search for a trapped victim. They also visited the Fire Communications Center and the Ventura County Aviation Unit (a joint program of the Sheriff's Office and the fire department).
- Looking ahead, September is Fall Prevention Month. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related death for adults 65+ in the United States. In 2021 alone, they claimed more than 38,000 lives. Locally, 1 in 3 Ventura-County seniors will fall each year. Some of the tips for people in that age bracket and those who care about them: Review and use medications as prescribed to avoid dizziness, stay strong and flexible with exercise, remove loose rugs and clutter from your home.
- Upgrades to VCFD's Regional Training Center, including burn buildings and an improved area for ladder training are expected to be completed sometime in September.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomsen

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

Ventura County Fire Department