



Website: **VCFD.org**

Twitter: **@VCFD**

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Sept. 8, 2025

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- Fall in Ventura County often brings strong winds from the East, including warm Santa Anas. Such winds increase the fire risk. Hot, dry conditions with strong winds can trigger Red Flag warnings. Residents are encouraged to avoid activities that could spark wildfires, such as loose tow chains, driving into grassy areas with a hot muffler or carelessly discarding a cigarette.
- 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, and each hour another older Californian dies from a fall. The Ventura County Fire Department is supporting the county's Human Services Agency's Area Agency on Aging in hosting a fall prevention forum at VCFD headquarters Sept. 26. Registration is available online at VCFD.org.
- This year marks the 24th anniversary of the September 11 attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C. To honor the lives lost and the courage of those who responded, the Ventura County Fire Department invites the community to join firefighters in remembrance ceremonies across the county. Commemorations will take place at every fire station, department headquarters, and at Fire Dispatch. At 6:59 a.m. — the moment the first plane struck the Twin Towers — flags will be lowered to half-staff, and a moment of silence will be observed. VCFD dispatchers will share a broadcast honoring all who perished, followed by four sets of five bells, a traditional firefighter tribute. Firefighters may also read the names of the 343 FDNY members who gave their lives that day. Community members are welcome to reflect alongside firefighters, honoring not only the fallen first responders but also the law enforcement officers and civilians whose lives were cut short.
- Looking ahead, Oct. 5-11 will be Fire Prevention Week. This year's national focus is on lithium ion battery safety. Improper use, charging, storage or disposal can lead to intense fires that are difficult to put out. Some key tips: Take batteries off the charger once the charging cycle is complete. Recycle batteries (even the small ones) rather than throwing them in the trash. Inspect batteries if they fall or get dropped, and immediately recycle any that are damaged.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomsen

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

Ventura County Fire Department