



## VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner

Fire Chief

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Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- We are now in Fire Prevention Week, which runs from Oct. 5-11. 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. VCFD staff are sharing these safety messages at events across the county this week and through our social media channels.
- The Ventura County Fire Department supported the Ventura County Human Services Agency by hosting a Fall Prevention Forum. Participants learned about the serious risks fall pose, especially for seniors, and strategies for avoiding them. They also had the opportunity to get a health screening and participate in Zumba demonstrations. Emergency medical services account for about 75% of the calls VCFD responds to and falls make up the biggest share of those calls.
- The Office of Traffic Safety has approved VCFD for a new Child Passenger Safety Grant in the amount of \$95,000. With approval from the Board of Supervisors to accept the grant, it would continue to provide training for new parents on how to properly install child car seats. It also would provide car seats for income-eligible families in Ventura County.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomsen

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

Ventura County Fire Department