VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Municipal Advisory Committee Report – July, 2026

VCFD Approved as Fire Risk Reduction Community by CA Board of Forestry:
Property owners within VCFD's jurisdiction may benefit from lower insurance rates following the department's renewed recognition as a Fire Risk Reduction Community. This designation reflects best practices in fire risk planning and mitigation and is subject to re-evaluation every two years. Beyond its potential to help reduce insurance costs, the designation also gives VCFD priority consideration for state fire hazard reduction and mitigation grants.

Fire Communication Center Upgrades Support Better Service Delivery:
VCFD is overhauling its Fire Communications Center, upgrading dispatch consoles and redesigning the layout to better support emergency communications and operations. The new consoles feature widescreen monitors that improve visibility and situational awareness for dispatchers. The redesigned layout also increases capacity, with an expanded dispatch area available for large-scale incidents such as the Sandy or Mountain fires. Handling over 10,000 emergency calls per month, the Fire Communications Center is pivotal to VCFD operations, and this investment promises to better serve the emergency communication needs of our community.

VCFD to Use Vibrant Planet Software for Fire Hazard Risk Reduction:
VCFD will soon begin using Vibrant Planet, an advanced wildfire planning platform designed to improve how hazardous fuel reduction projects are prioritized, planned, and measured. The platform combines parcel-level imagery from low-orbit satellites with fire behavior modeling, wildfire history, weather patterns, vegetation, and building data to identify where fuel reduction projects will have the greatest impact on reducing wildfire risk. The Vibrant Planet program is another measure we will use to reduce wildfire risk and build more resilient communities.

Junior Fire Academy Begins July 13th:
Starting July 13th, our annual Junior Fire Academy will run three one-week sessions of up to 30 attendees each. Open to county residents ages 13 to 15, the program provides initial instruction in basic firefighting and EMS operations. With the support and mentorship of our Fire Explorers, firefighters, and training staff, attendees receive an important introduction to the fire service. The program also offers career pathway advice and support for community members hoping to one day join the fire service.