

01/17/2014

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 14-003627

Information Contact: Battalion Chief Douglas Miser

Incident Type: Barranca Fire

Date/Time of Incident: January 17, 2014, 8:05 PM

Incident Location: Eisenhower St. - East Ventura – Harmon Barranca

Cause: Vagrant Encampment Fire

Injuries: None reported

Number of Personnel: 33 Firefighters

Fire Equipment: 2 Medic Engines, 1 Ventura County Task Force (3 Type Three engines and a water tender, 2 Battalion Chiefs, 1 Ventura County Hand Crew

Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Dept - Ventura County Fire Department, Investigator

Damage Estimate: Undetermined

The Ventura County Fire Communications center was flooded with reports of a tree row fire in a pack of eucalyptus lining the Harmon barranca just east of the Ventura Community Park just after 8pm Friday evening. The area was surrounded by homes on one side of the fire, an avocado orchard on the other, and the 126 freeway to the West.

Ventura City Fire resources were aided by a Ventura County Fire Task Force that was staged in the West portion of the county for the projected wind event. Due to a very fast response by both departments, the fire was held to a minimum, and flames were knocked down prior to the fire getting into the crowns of the eucalyptus. A Ventura County handcrew worked with engine companies to completely overhaul the area. The fire was completely extinguished in two hours and twenty-two minutes and kept to under a half acre in size.

A Ventura City Fire investigator located the origin of the fire in a large vagrant encampment. The encampment was torched during the fire and the investigation will continue in daylight. There were neither reported suspects nor direct witnesses of the event at the fire scene.

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