

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Incident Number:** 87960  
**Information Contact:** Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief  
**Incident Type:** Trench Rescue and Extrication  
**Date/Time of Incident:** 10-16-16 at 4:05 PM  
**Incident Location:** 200 Block of South Wells Road  
**Cause:** Accidental Fall  
**Injuries:** (general) 1 Moderate  
**Number of Personnel:** 11 Fire, 2 VPD Officers, 2 Ambulances, 1 EMS Supervisor  
**Fire Equipment:** 2 Medic Engines, 1 Truck Company, 1 Battalion Chief,  
Urban Search and Rescue Teams  
**Agencies Involved:** Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura County Fire Department,  
Oxnard Fire Department  
Ventura Police Department, American Medical Response

**Narrative:** A subcontractor was finishing work at new housing tract under development in the East end of Ventura and inadvertently fell into a 10 foot deep, 2 foot wide, electrical utility trench adjacent to Wells Road. No one was around to see the fall of the 38 year old man. Since very few people were on the very large jobsite after normal working hours, it would have been very unlikely that anyone would have been alerted by noise or yelling from the patient. The worker fortunately had his phone in his hand, was conscious, and was able to call 911 from a very awkward position from within the trench.

The Ventura County Fire Communications center did not have a specific address to dispatch rescue crews to. The public safety dispatcher traced the GPS of the cell phone and triangulated the position of the patient, and was able to direct responding personnel within 10 feet of the victim.

Fire crews made access into the fenced job site and deployed ladders adjacent to the victim's position. Fire paramedics entered into the trench and were able to dislodge the victim. The victim and firefighters were able to exit the trench from a ladder. The patient was assessed and treated by Fire Paramedics and AMR personnel.

The subcontractor sustained moderate injuries and was transported to a local hospital. The job superintendent was alerted of the situation and fire officials made notifications to the Ventura Division of Building and Safety and CAL OSHA.

*Due to HIPAA we are prevented from disclosing an individual's protected health information (PHI). We may not release information regarding patient's names, DOB, address, SS# or medical status.*

*(Photo on next page)*



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