

CITY OF VENTURA

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# FIRE DEPARTMENT

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## MEDIA RELEASE

**Date:** June 29, 2018 – **Update June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Incident Number:** 18-00502802

**Information Contact:** Tony Hill, Battalion Chief, **Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief**

**Incident Type:** Brush Fire

**Date/Time of Incident:** June 29, 2018 / 12:52 – **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 13:21**

**Incident Location:** Harbor at Olivas Park Dr.

**Cause:** Under Investigation – **Vagrant Encampment Fire**

**Injuries:** None

**Number of Personnel June 24th:** 84 – **June 30<sup>th</sup>- 39**

**June 30<sup>th</sup> - Fire Equipment:** 5 Engines, 1 Water Tender, 1 Dozer, 1 Crew, 3 Command

**Agencies Involved:** Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura County Fire Department, Oxnard Fire Department, Ventura PD, CHP, Ventura Harbor Patrol

**Narrative:** On the above date and time Ventura City Fire Department was dispatched to multiple reports of a fire burning in the Santa Clara river bed near the Ventura water treatment plant. First arriving firefighters reported a well-established fire burning in vegetation around several homeless encampments. Firefighters used three - 20 person hand crews, a water dropping helicopter and 6 engine companies to eventually contain blaze at 7 acres after 6 hours.

Harbor Blvd. was closed and Ventura River Haven was evacuated as a precaution during the course of firefighting operations. Ventura PD and CHP controlled traffic in support of the fire suppression efforts. No firefighters were injured as a result of this incident. The cause of the fire is suspected to be from an escaped cooking fire in one of many homeless encampments in the area.

**A second start occurred just after 1pm on Saturday afternoon. The fire burned an area adjacent to the burn yesterday and consumed more encampment items that had been abandoned. The cause of the second fire today was unknown; Ventura Fire Department has been patrolling the area for the past 24 hours with no problems noted until the incident.**

**The fire consumed.33 acres and was knocked down and extinguished by members of the Ventura, Oxnard and Ventura County Fire department. Units are still assigned to the incident as of this update-- at 16:37.**

*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.*



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