

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Incident Number: 96415
Information Contact: Douglas Miser, Battalion Chief
Incident Type: Fire in the Ventura River Area
Date/Time of Incident: 11-16-18 at 10:13am
Incident Location: Ventura River at West Main St. and Peking
Cause: Under Investigation
Injuries: (general) None Reported
Number of Personnel: 16 Fire
Fire Equipment: 4 Engines, 1 Water Tender, 1 Battalion Chief
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura County Fire Department, State Parks

Narrative: Two fires broke out in West Ventura just minutes of each other Friday morning.

The first fire involved a vagrant encampment adjacent to the Emma Wood group camp. The area of the fire was nestled deep into a clearing, surrounded by Arundel and local fauna, close to the river mouth.

A second fire broke out shortly thereafter in the vicinity of Foster Park that started at approximately 10:34am. The second fire was larger and moving uphill, and was initially reported as being started accidentally by heavy equipment on the property. A total of 22 apparatus including engines, aircraft, and hand crews were part of the initial dispatch in attempt to quickly contain the blaze. The fire was reported to be an acre in size and was under the command of the Ventura County Fire Department, with Ventura City Fire units also assigned. An aggressive initial attack of the fire was successful in keeping the fire to a minimum.

The Ventura River fire involved an area approximately 100X100 feet. A total of 16 personnel were assigned; providing water shuttles and establishing significant hose lays deep into the river bottom to fully extinguish the fire. The incident is under investigation as being purposefully set, and the situation is being handled by law enforcement.

Both fires have been fully controlled as of 1:00pm; perimeter control and full containment are expected to be completed within the hour.

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