

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Of Release: 08/19/2021
Fire Incident Number: 21-0070623
Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Matt Brock
Incident Type: Large Vehicle Fire
Date/Time of Incident: 0906 am, 07/12/2021
Incident Location: Ventura, CA – Walker St. at Moon Dr.
Cause/Origin: Mechanical/ electrical
Injuries Reported: None
Units Committed On-Scene: 2 Medic Engines, Medic Truck, Battalion Chief
Ventura Police patrol units
Total Fire Personnel On-Scene: 14
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire, Ventura Police

Narrative: Ventura City Fire units were dispatched to a report of a large vehicle fire. Fire and police personnel responded and arrived to find a motorhome fully involved with fire. Heavy smoke was visible for a long distance. Two adult occupants and a cat were able to escape from the vehicle unharmed. While they were driving, they noticed smoke and flames coming from the engine compartment and were able to stop and safely exit unharmed. The owner driver reported they were living fulltime in the motorhome and were in transit from Ventura to Camarillo at the time of the fire. The occupants were assisted by local Red Cross resources in obtaining temporary shelter.

The Ventura City Fire Department is committed to working with the City's Safe & Clean Program and regional partners to address any ongoing life-safety and property threats posed by homeless encampments in Ventura. Fires can occur in the river bottom because of unsheltered individuals living in the area who use fire for warmth and cooking. These fires can grow quickly and produce a lot of smoke because of strong winds, dry brush, fuel, and tall grasses.

The City's Safe and Clean program continues to work on long-term housing solutions and provides preventative resources for our most vulnerable populations. Safe & Clean works proactively with the Ventura Police Patrol Task Force, the Ventura City Fire Department, various social service providers, and community partners to clean up brush and debris in the riverbeds. City staff also visits these areas weekly to share education, health, and social services to unsheltered individuals, who legally, cannot be relocated from the river bottom to a safer location.

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