

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Of Release: 09/03/2021
Fire Incident Number: 21-0075288
Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Matt Brock
Incident Type: Structure Fire report – Balboa Middle School
Date/Time of Incident: 09:35 am, 09/03/2021
Incident Location: 247 S. Hill Rd, Ventura, CA – Balboa Middle School
Cause/Origin: HVAC – electrical problem
Injuries Reported: None
Units Committed On-Scene: 2-Medic Engines, Medic Ladder Truck, Battalion Chief

Total Fire Personnel On-Scene: 11

Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire, Oxnard Fire, Ventura County Fire, VUSD

Narrative: Fire units from Ventura City, Oxnard, and Ventura County Fire departments responded to a reported structure fire at Balboa Middle School. Units arrived to find the school in session and being evacuated due to the smell of smoke in a classroom. Upon investigation it was determined that the motor of a roof mounted heating and air-conditioning unit had overheated sending light smoke and odor of electrical burning into a single classroom. The HVAC unit was isolated with the help of school district personnel on scene and no further damage was found. The classroom was cleared and deodorized by fire personnel. No injuries were reported. School district maintenance personnel were on scene to ensure proper repairs to the HVAC unit.

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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