

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

**Date Of Release:** February 1, 2022  
**Fire Incident Number:** 2-010039  
**Incident Commander:** Battalion Chief Matt Brock  
**Incident Type:** Residential structure fire  
**Date/Time of Incident:** 2/01/2022, 04:21am  
**Incident Location:** 200 blk of Thompson Ave. Ventura, CA 93003  
**Cause/Origin:** Discarded smoking materials  
**Injuries Reported:** None  
**Units Committed On-Scene:** 8  
**Total Fire Personnel On-Scene:** 19  
**Agencies Involved:** Ventura City Fire, Ventura County Fire,

**Narrative:** Fire units were dispatched to a reported residential structure fire. Units arrived to find a growing fire inside an unoccupied residence. Fire crews made an aggressive attack on the fire and thankfully prevented spread to other nearby buildings. The detached secondary residential unit was boarded up and appeared to have been impacted by vagrancy and vandalism. No injuries were reported and no responsible party was identified.

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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