

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Of Release: June 18, 2022
Fire Incident Number: 22-0053353
Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Matt Brock
Incident Type: Vegetation fire
Date/Time of Incident: 6/18/2022, 9:58 pm
Incident Location: Harbor Blvd/ Peninsula St. Ventura, CA 93003
Cause/Origin: Unattended warming fire
Injuries Reported: None
Units Committed On-Scene: 4
Total Fire Personnel On-Scene: 13
Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire,

Narrative: Fire units responded to a reported vegetation fire. Units arrived to find a 20' x 50' spot fire in mixed vegetation and trees along Harbor Blvd on private property. Units made access to fire and performed extinguishment and overhaul. The fire originated in an unauthorized encampment area. No responsible party was identified and the cause was determined to be an unattended warming fire. No injuries were reported.

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.

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. All photos are free from copyright and may reproduced as necessary.