

May 22, 2023  
Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist  
[egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov)

**Ventura Fire Department honors Paramedic Zach Benner as Paramedic of the Year during National Emergency Medical Services Week**

**Ventura, Calif.** – During National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, happening May 21-27, 2023, the Ventura Fire Department is proud to recognize Zach Benner as its Paramedic of the Year. Additionally, the Department honored 28 employees with 33 Lifesaving Medals for excellent service to the City of Ventura.

Zach Benner has been a firefighter-paramedic with the Ventura Fire Department for 7 years and was awarded the Paramedic of the Year honor for providing high-quality care to those in need, serving as the secondary acting EMS Coordinator when needed, and showcasing himself as an exemplary leader among his peers.

“Our firefighter-paramedics are highly trained professionals who provide life-saving care in dangerous situations and put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of our community,” said Fire Chief David Endaya. “I am proud to lead such an exceptional team and thank them for their commitment to our city, residents, and visitors.”

In 2022, Ventura firefighter-paramedics responded to over 18,000 calls for service, over 13,500 of which were EMS-related responses.

Currently, Ventura Fire has 79 EMS professionals who engage in continuous classroom and manipulative training exercises annually to maintain fine skills and licensure.

The Ventura Fire Department is currently hiring Lateral Firefighter-Paramedics. Learn more and apply online at [www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Jobs](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Jobs).

###