



CITY OF VENTURA

FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Date Of Release: 5/8/2023

Fire Incident Number: 23-0039446

Incident Commander: Battalion Chief Jeremy Henderson

Incident Type: Structure Fire

Date/Time of Incident: 5/8/2023/05:57

Incident Location: 1600 Block of Main Street Ventura, CA

Cause/Origin: Under Investigation

Injuries Reported: None

Units Committed On-Scene: 1 Battalion Chief, 3 Engines, and 1 Truck Company

Total Fire Personnel On-Scene: 14

Agencies Involved: Ventura City Fire Department

Narrative:

On the above date and time, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple calls regarding a possible structure fire in a commercial restaurant. Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found smoke coming from a commercial building. Fire personnel confirmed there were no occupants inside and forced entry to extinguish a fire that had grown into the attic. The fire was knocked down within 8 minutes of the initial 911 dispatch. No injuries were reported, and the estimated damage and content loss of the building is pending further investigation. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. The Ventura City Fire Department would like to remind all business owners to ensure that they have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in addition to having an effective evacuation plan.

The Ventura City Fire Department is committed to working with the City's Beautify & Maintain 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 Beautify & Maintain program continues to work on long-term housing solutions and provides preventative resources for our most vulnerable populations. Beautify & Maintain 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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