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Contact: Scott Thomsen  
*Director of Communications and Public Affairs*  
Phone: **(805) 914-8502**  
Email: [scott.thomsen@ventura.org](mailto:scott.thomsen@ventura.org)

September 5, 2024

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- The VCFD has been contacted regarding the status of a radio communication tower that was planned for Fire Station 36 located in Oak Park. After careful consideration, we have decided not to pursue this project at the moment. Currently, we are focused on rebuilding our communications microwave system and enhancing our VHF radio capabilities. This work is integral as we evaluate all available options for our radio infrastructure's future. The tower project was intended to improve our existing system but given the ongoing design and study of the new system requirements, we are pausing the tower and other similar projects at selected locations. Additionally, we are in the process of evaluating our staffing needs, including the potential hiring of a new department IT/Radio positions following the recent departure of our previous manager as well as a Telecom Analyst . These potential new hires will play a crucial role in aligning our current and future needs to ensure we develop adequate infrastructure. Thank you for your understanding and continued support in our public safety systems.
- October 6-12 will be Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme is Smoke Alarms, Make Them Work for You. VCFD will be challenging residents to share the safety message by posting short videos of creative ways to test your smoke alarm to social media. Participants in the smoke alarm challenge could win a VIP experience with an engine company or a fire extinguisher. Start developing your ideas now. We want to see how you complete the Smoke Alarm Challenge.
- Fire conditions are high across California. VCFD firefighters have been deployed as mutual aid to many other communities this summer to help stop large wildfires, just as other agencies responded to help us on several occasions earlier this summer. That fire activity is a reminder to continue vegetation management on your property and maintain safety practices. A spark from a dragging chain on a trailer, a tossed cigarette or a hot muffler against a dry weed might be all it takes for the next fire to start.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomsen  
Director of Communications and Public Affairs  
Ventura County Fire Department