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Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- October 6-12 is Fire Prevention Week. This year's national theme is Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You. Fire Prevention staff will be engaging residents about the importance of smoke alarms at several locations throughout the county, including Lowe's Home Improvement at 1027 Academy Drive in Thousand Oaks on Oct. 5 and The Oaks Mall Farmer's Market in Thousand Oaks on Oct. 10. Additionally, the department is hosting a social media Smoke Alarm Challenge in which residents are challenged to share a short video of their creative ways to test their smoke alarms.
- VCFD put a replacement ladder truck into service at Station 41 in Simi Valley on September 13. The new ladder truck is equipped with a pump that can provide water for fire suppression efforts, which is an upgrade over the previous ladder truck. The previous truck now joins the reserve apparatus fleet to maintain operations should one of the first run trucks break down.
- Recruiting for seasonal fire control workers will begin November 4. These employees are an important part of VCFD's fire suppression capabilities. Their primary role is the physical labor associated with fighting wildfires, such as digging lines to stop the spread of fire through light grasses and vegetation.
- Forecasts by the National Geographic Area Coordination Center indicate a developing La Niña pattern and a slight to moderate tilt in the odds towards above normal large fire potential in our area for October and November. All residents should remain vigilant with best practices to avoid potential fire starts.

Sincerely,

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