



Website: **VCFD.org**
Twitter: **@VCFD**
Facebook: **@VenturaCountyFire**
Instagram: **@VenturaCountyFire**

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

February 19, 2025

Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- The Ventura County Fire Department's 62nd Fire Academy is underway at the department's Regional Training Center in Camarillo. The academy started with 33 trainees who hope to complete the 20 weeks of training to become probationary firefighters.
- Fire Chief Dustin Gardner has announced the promotion of Division Chief Barry Parker to Assistant Fire Chief of the Support Services Bureau. Selected after a nationwide search, Parker has steadily advanced through the ranks, serving as a firefighter, engineer, captain, battalion chief, and division chief during his 30-year career before assuming this new role. Most recently, he led as the Division Chief of Special Operations, overseeing fire emergency coordination with government agencies, arson investigations, special events, the hazardous materials (HAZMAT) unit, Urban Search and Rescue operations, and Tactical Emergency Medical Services teams.
- Rain has returned to Ventura County after a drier-than-normal December and January. The Mountain Fire burn area avoided significant debris flows and the rain did reduce fire conditions in the short-term. That said, the vegetation moisture content remains low, so the risk of wildfires continues. Everyone should continue to be careful about any activities that could start a fire.

Sincerely,

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