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Attn: Supervisor Jeff Gorell and Municipal Advisory Committees

- The Ventura County Fire Department is scheduled to start carrying whole blood in its rescue ambulances in April. This program will allow paramedics to start transfusions for bleeding patients before they reach the hospital, increasing the chances of survival for seriously injured people.
- Firefighters are scheduled to start moving into new Fire Station 34 in Thousand Oaks on March 10. Some concrete work remains to be completed, but operations will be possible while that work continues. A grand opening celebration could take place sometime in May.
- VCFD has received four new Type III Brush Engines, which are now being outfitted with radios and other equipment. Engineers also will receive training on the new apparatus before they are deployed to the field. The new engines are 4-wheel-drive, enhancing the department's wildland firefighting capabilities. These four are the first in an 11-engine order. The rest are currently scheduled to arrive over the next 12-18 months.
- The VCFD Awards is scheduled April 24 at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, Scherr Forum Auditorium. In addition to firefighter of the year awards in each battalion and employee of the year awards for each bureau, the department will honor civilians and public safety personnel for lifesaving acts, meritorious service, and to four individuals, medals of honor – the highest honor the department bestows.

Sincerely,

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