



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief

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Today, our community is starting into another round of strong Santa Ana winds with very dry brush throughout Southern California.

We've all seen the danger this can create, from the Mountain Fire here in Ventura County to the Palisades Fire still underway in Los Angeles County.

I offer my deepest condolences and support to everyone affected by these fires. You are our neighbors, friends, relatives, and even some of our coworkers.

As the winds continue, your fire department stands ready to respond to wildfires, protecting lives and property. Life safety will always be our top priority. When responders are engaged in life rescue they are not engaged in structure defense.

That's why it is vital for each of us to do what we can to keep more fires from starting, and support response efforts when they do.

- Please avoid any activities that could ignite a fire.
- Keep drones away from active fire zones. If you fly your drone, we can't fly our helicopters and airplanes. A Super Scooper was damaged when it collided with a drone and one of our Firehawk helicopters narrowly avoided a collision.
- Sign up for emergency alerts at vcalert.com.
- Prepare a "Go Bag" with a change of clothes, snacks, water, and important documents. Have one for your pets too.
- If you are told to evacuate, leave immediately. Your family cares about you more than any possessions.

Finally, if you would like to help the people who have lost their homes, donate to a trusted relief organization.

Take care. We're going to get through this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dustin Gardner".

Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief