



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Dustin Gardner

Fire Chief

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To: Bell Canyon Homeowners Association

From: Dustin Gardner, Fire Chief

Date: April 1, 2025

Subject: Jurisdictional Responsibilities of the Ventura County Fire Protection District

The Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) is dedicated to providing top-notch fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services within its jurisdiction, as determined by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and the Ventura County Local Agency Formation Commission. Our jurisdiction includes the cities of Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Camarillo, Ojai, Santa Paula, Port Hueneme, and all unincorporated areas of the county.

Our Responsibilities:

- **Fire Suppression and Prevention:** We are committed to controlling and extinguishing all types of fires within our jurisdiction, including wildland and structural fires. Our goal is to control 95% of all jurisdictional wildland fires to 10 acres or less.
- **Emergency Medical Services:** We provide timely and effective emergency medical care, regulated by the State of California and the Ventura County Health Care Agency.
- **Rescue Operations:** Our team conducts rescue operations for various emergencies, including vehicle accidents and water rescues, using specialized techniques.
- **Hazardous Materials Spills:** We respond to and stabilize hazardous material releases into the environment.
- **Hazard Mitigation:** We participate in hazard mitigation planning to reduce the impact of natural and human-made disasters, using strategies that minimize risks.
- **Secondary Public Safety Access Point and Fire Communication Center:** VCFPD operates the only fire/rescue public safety dispatch center in the county, authorized by the State of California and the Federal Communication Commission. Our center is staffed 24/7, ensuring fast and accurate responses to any fire/rescue emergency in Ventura County. Remember, 911 is the only emergency access number for fire/rescue emergencies.

- **Incident Management:** We provide qualified incident management for all fire/rescue incidents, ensuring clear delineation of responsibilities within and between agencies. Our Incident Commander (IC) is responsible for all resource ordering and can request, commit, and authorize reimbursement of resources through various channels, including the California Fire Assistance Agreement and Master Mutual Aid.
- **Community Outreach and Education:** We engage in community outreach and education programs to promote fire safety and emergency preparedness among residents.
- **Documentation and Cost Recovery:** We investigate the cause and origin of all fires and can pursue cost recovery for our expenses. Detailed incident reports are maintained for historical needs, training, service evaluation, and future service-trend analysis.

The Bell Canyon community falls within the jurisdiction of the VCFPD. Due to the community's jurisdictional isolation from the rest of the county, we have a closest resource agreement with the City of Los Angeles for emergency response to immediate life safety threats. The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) responds to Bell Canyon just like any other portion of the city, providing immediate stabilization to all fire/rescue incidents until properly relieved by VCFPD. This ensures that residents and visitors of Bell Canyon receive immediate access to emergency care, while the administrative, financial, and regulatory aspects of fire/rescue response are handled by VCFPD.

VCFPD remains committed to protecting the lives, property, and environment within its jurisdiction through effective fire suppression, prevention, and emergency response efforts.

Please let me know if you need any further information or clarification.

Best regards,



Dustin Gardner
Fire Chief