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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Leave the fireworks shows to the pros this Fourth of July

CAMARILLO, Calif. – As Ventura County prepares to celebrate the Fourth of July, fire officials remind the public that fireworks are illegal in the cities of Camarillo, Ventura, Moorpark, Santa Paula, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Oxnard, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County.

Fireworks are a wonderful part of the Independence Day tradition but pose a serious threat to wildfire, and danger to personal injury.

"With a year-round fire season, the fire risk to our community is substantial and cannot be ignored. We need all community members in Ventura County to celebrate the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday responsibly and safely," said Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen.

The safest and most enjoyable way to celebrate Independence Day is at a public fireworks show. Many cities will have professional fireworks shows starting at about dusk.

- Camarillo- Camarillo High School at 9 p.m.
- <u>City of Ventura-</u> Ventura College Athletic Field at 9 p.m.
- Ojai- Nordhoff High School Stadium at 9:15 p.m.
- <u>Thousand Oaks</u>- Hillcrest Center of the Arts at 9 p.m.
- <u>Moorpark-</u> Arroyo Vista Park at 9 p.m. (on July 3)

- Simi Valley- Rancho Santa Susana Community Park at 9:00 p.m.
- <u>Channel Islands</u>- Channel Islands Harbor at 9 p.m.
- Fillmore- Fairgrounds at dusk
- <u>Westlake-</u> Westlake Village Golf Course Driving Range at 9:10 p.m.
- <u>Calabasas</u>- Calabasas High School at 9 p.m.

Here are four 'safe and sane' ways to celebrate the Fourth of July:

- 1. Take a trip to the beach
- 2. Find an outdoor activity like hiking or biking
- 3. Host a BBQ with friends and family
- 4. Visit a veteran

For additional holiday tips, watch this "Fourth of July Safety" video.

"While we will never be able to eliminate accidents, the public needs to understand how easily fireworks can start a fire or cause severe burns. We want everyone to practice safety, use caution and have a great and safe holiday," commented Captain Stan Ziegler, VCFD Public Information Officer.

Anyone found in possession of fireworks or caught using them could be fined up to \$1,000 and/or receive a jail term of up to a year, under International Fire Code Section 3301.1.