



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Firefighters awarded grant to fund fire ground survival training

CAMARILLO, Calif. – A \$264,000 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant awarded to the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) will fund critical survival training for firefighters throughout the county.

The funds, awarded by the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, will be used for training in fire ground survival techniques. This includes props and resources, cross-training local firefighters to become instructors, and teaching fire ground survival skills to 670 firefighters from Ventura County, Oxnard, Ventura City, Santa Paula and Fillmore fire departments.

“This training will equip firefighters with a skillset to confidently initiate appropriate action and manage the scene when a firefighter becomes lost or trapped in a structure fire,” said VCFD Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen. “It will also provide consistency when we are on the scene of fires involving multiple departments.”

Fire Ground Survival Training applies the lessons learned from investigations involving firefighter fatality and near-miss incidents conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and has been developed by a committee from the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and NIOSH. These standards involve best practice behaviors and skills employed when a firefighter becomes lost or trapped on the scene of a structure fire. Studies have shown that firefighter deaths at the scene of structure fires can be directly attributed to the lack of these skills.

“We are grateful for the hard work of Oxnard Fire Department Battalion Chief Alex Hamilton who wrote this grant in a cooperative effort with VCFD” said Chief Lorenzen.

The first step of the process will take place September 12-14, at the Ventura County Regional Training Facility, as firefighters from several local departments attend a “Train-the-Trainer” course taught by IAFF certified instructors.

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