



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public invited to fire station open house events *VCFD kicks off Fire Prevention Week with free pancake breakfast*

CAMARILLO, Calif. – The [Ventura County Fire Department](http://VenturaCountyFireDepartment.org) has joined the [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](http://NationalFireProtectionAssociation.org) in proclaiming October 9 - 15, 2016, Fire Prevention Week.

This year's theme, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," serves to educate the public about the importance of replacing smoke alarms in homes at least every ten years, and to determine the age of smoke alarms by checking the date of manufacture on the back of the alarms.

In celebration of Fire Prevention Week, VCFD will host an open house breakfast at two of its fire stations. The free events are open to the public from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 8, at Station 54 in Camarillo and on Saturday, October 15, at Station 41 in Simi Valley.

Nearby community members are invited to enjoy a pancake breakfast and refreshments, take a tour of the station, meet their neighborhood firefighters and learn the basics about smoke alarms and fire safety preparedness.

A recent survey conducted by NFPA revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are or how often they need to be replaced.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (*not* the date of purchase). VCFD also recommends smoke alarms be tested monthly, and that batteries be replaced once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they're running low.

VCFD Fire Station 54 is located at 2160 Pickwick Drive in Camarillo. Station 41 is located at 1910 Church Street.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, visit www.firepreventionweek.org.



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