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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chuck Scherrei Promoted to Deputy Chief

Thousand Oaks, CA — The Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) today announced the promotion of Chuck Scherrei to Deputy Fire Chief, a key leadership position responsible for day-to-day service delivery across the department.

Scherrei's promotion marks a significant milestone in a distinguished career dedicated to public safety, leadership development, and service to the Ventura County community.

Ventura County Fire Chief Dustin Gardner praised Scherrei's leadership and commitment to the organization. "Deputy Chief Scherrei has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to both our organization and the community we serve," said Fire Chief Dustin Gardner. "He has a genuine desire to serve others and approaches every challenge with humility and a strong sense of responsibility. Chuck's passion for mentoring and coaching has helped shape our current and future leaders, and his ability to strengthen our organization while investing in the next generation makes him the right leader to help guide this department into the future."

Throughout his career, Scherrei has advanced through the ranks—serving as a firefighter, engineer, captain, battalion chief, and assistant chief—gaining extensive experience in emergency operations, leadership, and organizational development.

In his most recent role as Assistant Chief of Operations, Scherrei led critical programs and worked closely with regional, state, and federal partners to strengthen operational readiness and emergency response capabilities. Whether advancing readiness or improving internal processes, he has consistently modeled a commitment to excellence.

"I'm incredibly humbled by the opportunity to serve in this role," said Deputy Chief Scherrei. "The Ventura County Fire Department is made up of dedicated professionals who serve our communities with pride every day. It is an honor to support them and continue serving the community I've grown up in."

As Deputy Fire Chief, Scherrei will oversee bureau managers responsible for the department's day-to-day operational activities, help guide strategic planning and organizational priorities, and support



department-wide initiatives. He will also assume leadership of the department in the Fire Chief's absence when necessary.

The Ventura County Fire Department employs nearly 650 personnel and serves as the primary responder for fire, rescue, and medical emergencies across most of Ventura County, including the cities of Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, Moorpark, Santa Paula, Ojai, and Port Hueneme, as well as unincorporated areas. VCFD firefighters respond to more than 55,000 emergency calls annually.

For more information, visit www.fire.venturacounty.gov.

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