



VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

165 Durley Avenue, Camarillo, CA 93010-8586

Mark Lorenzen
County Fire Chief

Website: VCFD.org
Facebook: [@VenturaCountyFire](https://www.facebook.com/VenturaCountyFire)
Twitter: [@VCFD](https://twitter.com/VCFD)

CONTACT: Public Information Office
OFFICE PHONE: (805) 389-9746
DUTY PHONE: (805) 377-4860
EMAIL: PIOFire@ventura.org

NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 04, 2019

VCFD announces promotions in command staff

CAMARILLO, Calif. – The Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) recently promoted Dustin Gardner, John McNeil and Kelly White to high-level positions within the department. The promotions follow the retirements of long-time Deputy Fire Chief Vaughan Miller and Assistant Chief Mike Milkovich.

"I am very pleased to recognize these outstanding firefighters not only for their promotions, but for their service to our community. They have proven themselves through a long and successful career with the department and will serve as key members of my command staff," said Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen. "With these promotions, the leadership team is in great shape to take Ventura County Fire to new levels of excellence."

Dustin Gardner, Deputy Fire Chief

Dustin Gardner joined the department as a firefighter in 1998 and rose through the ranks as an engineer and captain. He promoted to a battalion chief in 2013 and then promoted to an assistant chief responsible for the emergency service bureau in 2015. He holds an associate's degree in Fire Science, a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration and is completing an M.P.A. in Public Administration. He lives in Camarillo, CA with his wife and one daughter. As deputy chief, Gardner serves as the second-in-command and is responsible for VCFD's day-to-day operations. He reports directly to Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen.

John McNeil, Assistant Fire Chief, Emergency Services Bureau

A 30-year veteran of the department, John McNeil was promoted to the position of assistant fire chief, responsible for emergency services and operations. In that capacity, McNeil is responsible for oversight of VCFD's fire stations and dispatch center. He has extensive experience in the areas of urban search and rescue, wildland firefighting and human resources. He previously served as a battalion chief in 2013 and division chief in 2017. McNeil graduated from Daniel Freeman Paramedic School, holds an associate's degree in Fire Science and is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Environmental Management. He lives in Ojai, CA with his wife and two children. McNeil reports directly to Deputy Chief Gardner.

Kelly White, Assistant Fire Chief, Administrative Services Bureau

Kelly White joined the department in 1989 as a firefighter and advanced through the ranks as a captain and a battalion chief for the last 20 years. Experience includes oversight of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division, the Special Operations Battalion and most recently served as the battalion chief responsible for the Fire and EMS Regional Communications Center. White holds an associate's degree in Emergency Medical Technology and a bachelor's degree in Occupational Studies. She lives in Camarillo, CA with her husband and two children. As an assistant fire chief, White oversees the administrative services bureau, which is responsible for human resources, recruitment, risk and safety, emergency medical services, training and the fire chaplains. White reports directly to Deputy Chief Gardner.

For more information about the Ventura County Fire Department, contact the Public Information Office at (805) 389-9720. For all other inquires visit, www.VCFD.org.

NOTE: See attached photos for each fire chief officer

###