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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Katie Casey, Communications Manager
(805) 816-4330 | katie.casey@oxnard.org

Updates on Fire at Former Sunkist Packaging Plant

OXNARD, Calif. – Nineteen fire engine companies and four ladder trucks responded to a major fire in Oxnard that began on Tuesday, March 5 at approximately 10:30 p.m. at the former Sunkist packaging plant located at 245 E. Colonia Rd.

Due to the dangerous conditions within the building, firefighters maintained a defensive position around the plant to extinguish the flames, which did not spread beyond the property. As of 10 a.m. on March 6, fire department personnel remain onsite to put out the fire's remaining embers. The building is considered a total loss.

The incident is considered to be one of the largest fires in Oxnard's recent history. In response to the massive fire, the Oxnard Police Department provided traffic control and aerial drone footage to support firefighting efforts. Fire personnel from the Ventura County Fire Department, Ventura City Fire, and the Naval Base's Federal Fire Ventura County also provided onsite support.

Street traffic remains closed until further notice on Oxnard Blvd. in both directions from Deodar Ave. to Cooper Rd., and Colonia Rd. from Oxnard Blvd. to Hayes Ave.

Railway traffic has resumed operations; passengers are encouraged to check for train schedule updates throughout the day in case of delays. The Oxnard School District has closed Ramona, Chavez Rose Avenue, Brekke and Frank schools until further notice. Parents and students are encouraged to follow updates from the District regarding its schedule.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation and is anticipated to take some time due to the massive size. As of Wednesday morning, there were no reported deaths or injuries as a result of the fire. This is subject to change.

The City's Public Works department is cleaning up debris from the streets impacted by the fire. Regular street sweeping schedules on Wednesday have been suspended due to rain.

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