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NEWS RELEASE



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Governor Newsom Signs Bill Sponsored by Ventura County District Attorney to Strengthen Wildfire Prevention Laws

VENTURA, Calif. – Governor Gavin Newsom has signed legislation sponsored by Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko that strengthens wildfire prevention requirements during vegetation clearing operations and clarifies responsibility for complying with fire safety laws.

Assembly Bill 2075, authored by Assemblymember Steve Bennett and sponsored by District Attorney Nasarenko, was introduced in response to the 2024 Mountain Fire in Ventura County. The Mountain Fire burned nearly 20,000 acres and destroyed hundreds of structures after a smaller vegetation fire caused during a brush clearing effort reignited days later due to lingering hot debris.

“AB 2075 clarifies fire safety standards during operations on or near any forest, brush, or grass-covered land and ensures companies performing such activities clearly know what they can be held liable for in the event a fire occurs,” said Assemblymember Steve Bennett.

AB 2075 establishes clear, consistent requirements for fire suppression equipment during vegetation clearing operations. The law requires basic firefighting tools, including shovels and fire extinguishers, to be attached to or carried in a motor vehicle while performing brush clearance. Workers on foot using power tools must also have a fire extinguisher within 25 feet and a sufficient number of shovels readily available.

The legislation also clarifies that both individuals and companies conducting vegetation clearing operations are responsible for complying with applicable fire safety requirements.

“Wildfires can grow from a small ignition into a devastating disaster in a matter of seconds,” District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said. “AB 2075 puts the tools needed to stop a fire where they belong, at the source of ignition, and makes clear that those conducting vegetation clearing operations have

a responsibility to be prepared. This law is about preventing fires before they become tragedies and protecting California communities.”

District Attorney Nasarenko testified in support of AB 2075 before the California State Assembly Committee on Natural Resources in April, highlighting the need to address gaps in existing law that could delay effective fire suppression during the critical early moments of an ignition.

AB 2075 passed the Assembly Natural Resources Committee unanimously and subsequently advanced through the legislative process before receiving final approval and being signed by Governor Newsom.