



LAKE FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE

Date: 08/18/2020 **Time:** Morning

 @Angeles_NF
@LACoFDPIO

 @AngelesNationalForest
@LACoFD

Incident Information Line: (626) 574-5208
(323) 205-5263

Incident Media Line: (323) 347-4725

Email: 2020.lake@firenet.gov

<https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6953/>

Current Situation: The Lake Fire is currently 21,115 acres with 38% containment and 4,570 structures remain threatened. Mandatory evacuations are in place. The fire is burning on the Angeles National Forest near Lake Hughes and moving northwest towards 100-year-old fuels consisting of Big Cone Douglas Fir, Oak and Gray Pine. The Lake Fire remains eight miles to the northeast of Interstate 5 and south of Highway 138. Firefighters are facing steep and rugged terrain, high temperatures, critically dry fuels and drought stressed trees.

The Lake Fire started on August 12, 2020 and has burned for 7 days and the cause of the fire is undetermined.

The right flank of the fire, just west of Lake Hughes has held for several days. Some of the areas in denser vegetation require extensive mop up.

The left flank in the area of Sawmill Mountain, Burnt Peak and Little Burnt Peak is presenting the most challenging fire behavior. Containment along Pine Mountain Road will continue to be threatened by spot fires. Crews will watch for fire whirls, or fire devils, a spinning vortex column of ascending hot air and gases rising from a fire.

A virtual public meeting was live streamed yesterday evening on the Angeles National Forest and Los Angeles County Fire Department Facebook and Instagram pages. The replay of the live stream can be seen on those channels where the public had the opportunity to ask questions about the fire.

The unified incident command post is located in the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area. The lake and surrounding areas are being used in support of fire operations. Both upper and lower lakes are currently closed to public access and the recreational facilities will remain closed until further notice.

Assigned Resources:

Engines: 224 **Hand Crews:** 28 **Dozers:** 39 **Water Tenders:** 26 **Helicopter:** 13 **Total Personnel:** 1,983

There has been one minor reportable injury to a firefighter.

Weather: An excessive heat warning, dangerously hot conditions along with high temperatures between 98' and 110' degrees is in effect until 9 p.m. Thursday for the Santa Clarita, San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys. Very hot and critically dry conditions will remain again today as high pressure is anchored over the region. Winds will be a little stronger in the late afternoon with possible gusts up to 25 mph out of the west; southwest.

Evacuations: Lake Hughes Road west of Pine Canyon and north of Dry Gulch Road. east of Ridge Route Road west of Lake Hughes Road and Fire Station 78 north of Pine Canyon and Lake Hughes Road south of SR-138.

Evacuation Point(s): Evacuation points will be opened as needed. If you should need assistance, please call 1-800-Red-Cross (1-800-733-2767)

Road Closures: 3 Points Road from Hwy 138 to Pine Canyon Road, Old Ridge Route from Hwy 138 to Pine Canyon Road, Pine Canyon Road from Ridge Route Road to Lake Hughes Road.

Animal Care: Antelope Valley Fairgrounds (Large Animals Only) – 2551 W Avenue H, Lancaster, CA 93536

Smoke Outlook: The South Coast Air Quality Management District has issued an air quality advisory for the Lake and Ranch 2 Fires for San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. Light northeast winds will impact areas west of the fire this morning with air quality in the Moderate range. As winds shift southwest this afternoon, smoke will be pushed north impacting Lebec and the Antelope Valley. These areas can expect Moderate air quality levels throughout the day. In any area impacted by smoke: If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seeking alternate shelter and avoiding vigorous physical activity.

Fire Restrictions: The fire danger in the Angeles National Forest has continued to increase, and on Saturday, August 1st, the Forest changed its Fire Danger Level from VERY HIGH to EXTREME. Corresponding with this change, the Forest moved into full fire restrictions including prohibiting campfires in developed sites. You may read the [Angeles Forest Order No. 05-01-20-05](#) which prohibits all campfires within the Angeles National Forest. The Angeles uses a [6 Level Fire Danger Rating System](#) to determine fire restrictions which it adjusts throughout the year. No fires of any type including cooking stoves, lanterns, and similar devices which use propane, white gas, or similar fuels are allowed at this time.

Cooperating Agencies: County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, County of Los Angeles Public Works, County of Los Angeles Animal Care & Control, County of Los Angeles Parks & Recreation, Red Cross, and Southern California Edison.

Safety Message: During the 2020 fire year, the most important thing that the public can do is to prevent human-caused fires. From following fire restrictions to talking to neighbors about defensible space around their homes, individual actions can reduce the number and impact of human caused fires. Additionally, these efforts can preserve firefighting resources, reduce the need for firefighters to move throughout the country, and minimize exposure to and transmission of Covid-19 among incident personnel and communities.

About the forest: The Angeles National Forest was established by Executive Order in December 1892. It covers about 700,000 acres and is the backyard playground to the huge metropolitan area of Los Angeles. The Angeles manages the watersheds within its boundaries to provide valuable water to southern California and to protect surrounding communities from catastrophic floods.

The land within the Forest is as diverse in appearance and terrain as it is in the opportunities it provides for enjoyment. Elevations range from 1,200 to 10,064 feet. Much of the Forest is covered with dense chaparral which changes to pine and fir-covered slopes as you reach the majestic peaks of the higher elevations.

Information on Preparing to Evacuate: LA County Fire Department Ready Set Go at: www.fire.lacounty.gov/rsg

Incident Information Line: (626) 574-5208 (323) 205-5263 Incident Media Line: (323) 347-4725 or <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/6953/>