

REPOPULATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

This document contains important general information and resources. Specific repopulation information for the Lake Fire, when available, can be found in the *News Release/Media Advisory Section* and/or on the current *Incident Update Information Sheet*. Click [here](#) to return to the Lake Fire Status webpage when you have finished reading this information.

REPOPULATION – GENERAL INFORMATION

Frequently asked question: The fire is out in my area; why can't I go home?

The Los Angeles County Fire Department recognizes that evacuation orders can cause undue strain on those eager to return home. Please understand that incident commanders are continuously evaluating both fire and infrastructure conditions so that repopulation can occur as quickly as possible, but not at the expense of your safety. **YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN.**

Some, but not all, of the factors that need to be considered before any evacuations can be lifted are:

- Amount of fire personnel still working in an area and the type of work being performed.
- Damage to roads/guardrails, etc. that must be repaired prior to allowing public access.
- Removal of trees or large debris impacting the roadway.
- Damage to utility infrastructure that must be repaired prior to allowing public access (e.g., clearing power lines from roadways, replacing downed power poles, etc.).
- Public health considerations.

When evacuations are lifted and repopulation begins to occur, it may sometimes include the entire evacuation area but, more likely, will affect only one portion of the evacuation area at a time. Repopulating in segments not only allows us to get some residents home as quickly as possible, but also reduces the impact on law enforcement officials who need to check for identification when these areas are reopened to residents only (which is usually the case).

When an area is repopulated, we ask those residents to please be mindful of people working in the area as essential services continue to be restored. Stay vigilant as you drive into areas that have been impacted by the fire as road crews, firefighters, and other personnel are focused on completing their assignments. As traffic flow is introduced into these areas, people may be more focused on the damage and not aware of their immediate surroundings. Please stay alert and pay attention.

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As the area is repopulated, please be aware that there may be intermittent power outages and associated street closures as power is restored or equipment is repaired throughout the impacted areas.

Because there are many hazards that can exist when returning to your home after a wildfire, we urge you to take safety precautions, such as personal protective equipment (breathing protection, proper clothing, gloves, boots, and eye/face protection). Click [here](#) to learn more about how to safely re-enter areas burned by wildfire.

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