



# LAKE FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE

Date: 08/22/2020 Time: Evening

Incident Website: [inciweb.nwgc.gov/incident/6953](http://inciweb.nwgc.gov/incident/6953)

Incident Information Line: (323) 205-5263



@Angeles\_NF  
@LACoFDPIO



@AngelesNationalForest  
@LACoFD

Incident Media Line: (323) 347-4725

Incident Email: [2020.Lake@Firenet.gov](mailto:2020.Lake@Firenet.gov)

Location: Lake Hughes, 17 miles west of Lancaster CA

Acres Burned:	31,089	Structures Threatened:	1,329
Containment:	52%	Structures Destroyed:	12
Fire Started:	August 12, 2020 at 3:40 PM	Structures Damaged:	6
Cause:	Under Investigation	Outbuildings Destroyed:	21
		Injuries:	1

Total Assigned Personnel: 1,833

Engines: 139 Hand Crews: 28 Dozers: 34 Water Tenders: 27 Helicopter: 12

**Current Situation:** The Lake Fire started in the Angeles National Forest near Lake Hughes and is burning in 100-year-old fuels consisting of Big Cone Douglas Fir, Oak, and Gray Pine. The fire is burning northeast of Interstate 5 and south of Highway 138.

Firefighters have successfully contained 52% of the fire. They continue to focus their efforts on the northwest and western flanks of the fire in the area of Cow Spring Canyon and Bear Canyon. Hand crews and engines are working on reinforcing and holding containment lines on the west edge of the fire. Continued instability in the weather during the overnight hours will pose a challenge for firefighters with the chances of thunderstorms, lightning strikes, and gusty winds.

Crews are using tactical firing operations (applying fire on the ground) as conditions allow. Tactical firing operations help reduce vegetation (fuel) on the forest floor, to widen previously constructed containment lines and stop the progress of the fire to the north and west to protect communities. Because the area is so steep and inaccessible, one of the tools for tactical firing operations is aerial ignition. The aerial ignition tool used most often is the plastic sphere dispenser (PSD) machine, commonly called the "Ping-Pong Ball System." The PSD is mounted on a helicopter and drops Ping Pong-like balls through a chute leading out of the helicopter. The balls, which contain a chemical oxidizing agent, ignite 25-30 seconds after being released from the helicopter. Once they hit the ground, they quickly ignite the vegetation on the ground.

Firefighters will continue to mop up and look for hot spots on the east flank of the fire, west of Lake Hughes, and this area of the fire line has held for several days.

**Weather:** Remnants from Hurricane Genevieve have entered the region bringing tropical moisture and instability with the continued potential for showers and thunderstorms during the overnight hours. A Flash Flood Watch remains in effect for the interior mountains, Cuyama and Antelope Valleys until 11:00 PM. Recent burn areas, including the Lake Fire, could experience flooding and debris flows throughout the night. Overnight temperatures will dip down to 72-78 degrees, with winds out of the west and southwest 5-10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph, becoming 3-6 mph with gusts up to 10 mph.

**Repopulation of Evacuees:** Residents of the northeast area of the Lake Hughes community were permitted to return to their homes on Friday. Residents can only access the area via Elizabeth Lake Road from the east. There is no access from the west due to the current road closures. Residents returning to their homes will have to show identification. Intermittent power outages and other hazards may still be present in the area. For safety information on returning home after a wildfire visit: [bit.ly/repopfacts](http://bit.ly/repopfacts)

**Evacuations:** The following areas will remain under evacuation orders; East of Old Ridge Route, West of Shafer Road, South of Highway 138, North of Pine Canyon Road / Elizabeth Lake Road, Lake Hughes Road South of Deeswood Drive and North of Dry Gulch Road. Unified Incident Commanders are evaluating all evacuated areas for the potential to safely repopulate.

**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:** Three Points Road from Highway 138 to Pine Canyon Road, Old Ridge Route from Highway 138 to Pine Canyon Road, Lake Hughes Road from Ridge Route Road to Deeswood Drive, Pine Canyon Road from Old Ridge Route to Lake Hughes Road, Dry Gulch Road from San Francisquito Canyon Road to Lake Hughes Road.

**Additional Closures:** The Castaic Lake Recreation Area and surrounding areas are being used in support of the fire. The upper and lower lakes and recreation facilities are closed until further notice.

**Fire Forest Closure/Restrictions:** The Angeles National Forest has closed all National Forest System lands within the Lake Fire closure area by Order 05-01-20-6. Fire danger in the Angeles National Forest has continued to increase. On Saturday, August 1st, the Forest changed its Fire Danger Level from VERY HIGH to EXTREME. The Angeles Forest Order No. 05-01-20-05 prohibits all campfires within the Angeles National Forest. 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.

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

**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 through this evening. If you smell smoke or see ash due to a wildfire, limit your exposure by remaining indoors with windows and doors closed or seek alternate shelter, in addition to avoiding vigorous physical activity.

**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:** "Turn around; don't drown." Each year, more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other thunderstorm related hazard. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult, just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away most cars, and just 2 feet of rushing water can carry away SUVs and trucks. It is NEVER safe to drive or walk into flood waters. For more information, please visit: <https://www.weather.gov/safety/flood-turn-around-dont-drown>

**The National Forest:** For information on the Forest visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles>

**Wildfire Preparedness:** Learn more about Los Angeles County Fire Department's Ready! Set! Go! Program at: [www.fire.lacounty.gov/rsg](http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/rsg)

**Incident Information Line:** (323) 205-5263 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM