



LAKE FIRE INCIDENT UPDATE

Date: 08/23/2020 Time: Morning

Incident Website: 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

Location: Lake Hughes, 17 miles west of Lancaster CA

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|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 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.

The influence of tropical moisture and higher humidity allowed them to utilize direct attack strategies in the area of Burro Canyon. Hand crews and engines are working on reinforcing and holding containment lines on the southwest edge of the fire. The chance of thunderstorms this afternoon could pose a challenge for firefighters with the potential for lightning strikes, gusty winds, localized flooding and debris flows. Despite winds gusting up to 40 mph during the overnight hours, containment lines have held.

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, tactical firing operations utilize aerial ignition sources. One of the aerial tools being utilized is the Heli-torch. This is large unit suspended from a helicopter that dispenses ignited fuel over large areas to burn and reduce vegetation on the forest floor.

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

Weather: Tropical moisture and instability continues to influence the local weather pattern, bringing a 15-20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11:00 AM today. A Flash Flood Watch remains in effect for the interior mountains, Cuyama and Antelope Valleys from 12:00 PM until 9:00 PM. Recent burn areas, including the Lake Fire, could experience flooding and debris flows. Cloud cover is expected to increase, moderating today's high temperatures to the upper 80s and 90s, with humidity ranging around 20-30%. Southwesterly winds will continue, with gusts up to 20 mph in the afternoon.

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

Evacuations: The following areas will remain under evacuation orders; South of Highway 138, East of Old Ridge Route, West of Shafer Road, 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 Shafer 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.

Forest Fire Closure/Restrictions: The Angeles National Forest has closed all National Forest System lands within the Lake Fire closure area by Order No. 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 Fire, affecting San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties. 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: CalFire, 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 Angeles National 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

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