



Boyle Heights Storage Facility Fire Fact Sheet

Key Takeaway

This six-story cold storage warehouse holds 85 million pounds of frozen food in high-pile racks. Its energy-efficient design keeps contents frozen but complicates fire containment, as insulation burns slowly and the roof's solar panels block firefighter access to the upper part of the building.

We recognize that, as the incident is ongoing, the continued smoke production, disruptions, and uncertainty are difficult for residents, workers, and businesses.

What is happening right now?

Most of the visible fire has been extinguished.

Firefighters are now focused on locating, accessing, and extinguishing remaining hot spots and hidden fire inside a large, fire-damaged warehouse before the incident can be fully resolved.

Is progress being made?

Yes.

A majority of the fire has been knocked down.

The remaining work is locating, accessing, and extinguishing the hot spots and hidden pockets of fire that are still burning inside the warehouse.

Why is there still smoke?

Smoke does not necessarily mean the fire is getting worse.

Even after most of a large warehouse fire has been contained, smoke may still be seen because hot spots and hidden pockets of fire inside the building can keep producing smoke until they are completely extinguished.

Is the fire under control?

Firefighters have contained the majority of the fire and are now addressing hot spots and hidden pockets.

The focus is on full extinguishment while prioritizing firefighter safety and minimizing health impacts to the community.

Why is it taking so long?

The challenge is not the number of firefighters on scene.

The challenge is safely reaching remaining hot spots and hidden fire inside a nearly 500,000-square-foot, fire-damaged warehouse with extremely high, narrow aisles

created by rows of merchandise and foam coating on the warehouse walls to maintain refrigeration.

Firefighters inside the warehouse faced zero visibility, making it extremely challenging to safely enter, move around, and locate the remaining hot spots. The aisles only have a single entry and exit point, further complicating access. Even with better visibility, working in these conditions would still expose firefighters to significant danger, especially given the constant threat of roof collapse. To assist with assessing the facility's layout and improving safety, a firefighting robot was deployed.

Firefighters have been unable to safely access these hot spots and hidden pockets of fire. Moving too quickly would increase risk and delay full extinguishment.

The industrial foam material lining the walls has also posed a challenge to knocking the fire down. In order to execute an effective assault on the fire, it has been necessary to tear down the walls.

What steps have been taken to speed the response?

Both the building owner and firefighters used innovative methods to tackle this complex fire. Though water-dropping aircraft are rare for structure fires, LAFD utilized helicopters from both LAFD and the LA County Fire Department within the first three hours due to the severity.

Several very dangerous hazards were eliminated during the first days of the fire.

Firefighters used forklifts to move pallets of lithium-ion batteries out of harm's way, eliminating the risk of the batteries burning and generating toxic smoke.

The ammonia leak posed an immediate hazardous materials issue. Building owners and firefighters worked together to address this dangerous health risk by removing the existing ammonia from the tanks and resolving the situation.

Since the refrigeration system is out of order due to the absence of electricity and ammonia, nearly 85 million pounds of frozen food stored in the cold-storage warehouse are now above their proper storage temperature. Perishable products have spoiled. The building owner will coordinate with the fire department to transport the food to a processing facility for safe disposal.

The LAFD has sought assistance from around the region and nationwide to find equipment and personnel able to assist. A firm from Texas was contracted for their high-capacity water delivery system, which delivers up to 6,000 gallons of water every minute into the building, accelerating extinguishment efforts.

Is there an immediate danger to nearby residents?

The primary concern remains exposure to smoke and fine particles from the ongoing fire.

Residents should continue following air quality advisories, and response agency and public health guidance, especially when smoke is visible or air quality worsens.

People with asthma, heart or lung conditions, older adults, children, and pregnant individuals may be more sensitive to smoke.

How long will this take?

The timeline depends on how quickly crews can safely locate, access, and extinguish the remaining hot spots.

Emergency responders will continue providing updates as conditions change.

Where Can I Get the Latest Updates?

For information on active health advisories, please visit lacounty.gov/emergency.

The Los Angeles Fire Department is providing daily video updates on the status of the fire. To watch the latest update, visit <https://www.youtube.com/@lafd/videos>.

For emergencies dial 911. To check your evacuation status, visit protect.genasys.com.

What Residents Can Do

- ✓ Monitor local air quality updates (add AQMD mobile app and website) and take steps to reduce your exposure.
- ✓ Keep windows and doors closed when smoke is present.
- ✓ You can continue to run your air conditioner with doors and windows closed to keep cool.
- ✓ Air filtration, such as air purifiers, may be helpful, if available.
- ✓ Wear a well-fitted N95 or KN95 mask if you must be outdoors in smoky or poor air quality conditions.
- ✓ Avoid or limit outdoor activity when air quality is poor.
- ✓ Check on family members, neighbors, and others who may be more vulnerable to smoke.

I Need Help. Where Should I Go?

Shelters have been opened by the County and City of Los Angeles. Both the City Terrace Shelter at 1126 N. Hazard Ave. and the Pecan Recreation Center at 145 S. Pecan St. welcome small pets.

Residents do not need to check into shelters to access resources like food, water and protective masks. A mobile health clinic is also on site at the County's City Terrace shelter.

Free Uber rides* are available to and from the shelters for residents living within 2.5 miles of the fire. Riders must apply the promo code "ELASAFE26" in the Wallet section of the Uber app before requesting a ride.

**Eligible residents can receive up to two free rides (up to \$40 per ride). Offer valid thru 6/27.*

Stay tuned for updates on additional resources being made available at lacounty.gov/emergency or call 211 for assistance.