



February 2, 2025

The inaugural Lake Sonoma 100-mile Sufferfest was cancelled after 15 hours when a temporary bridge which the runners would have crossed at mile 75 washed out. Dennis Boic and Lindsey Dwyer had established commanding leads but were forced to stop at mile 68.5.

The race was held during the second day of an atmospheric river storm – the steady rain caused the lake level to rise significantly from the runoff. “We had to make a safety call. Without the bridge, there’s no safe way to get across the creek,” race director Skip Brand said. “The creek is 6-7 feet deep and raging right now. Plus, the wind picked up in the late afternoon and several trees came down, creating additional hazards. It’s really unfortunate because the runners were holding up so well despite the weather,” noting that 93 of the 106 starters were still in the race after 15 hours.

The race was a paean to the brave firefighters that have battled the numerous California wildfires in recent years. All firefighters ran the race for free and the race was scheduled in February, which is normally the firefighting offseason, to accommodate them. Several firefighters were running the race as their first ultra.

“Safety for runners is our number one concern,” Brand said. “We fully understand the training effort and work put in by our firefighters and runners and are really sorry – gutted, actually – that we had to cancel. We appreciate all the runners who safely left the course to reach the start/finish and thank them for their understanding during this difficult situation that has affected our race community, including the 250 volunteers.”

About half of the runners completed 100km before they were stopped, with the remainder being stopped at 50.6 miles.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Skip Brand & Sam Karthan".

Skip Brand & Sam Karthan
Lake Sonoma Race Series Directors

