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WILDFIRE NEWS OF THE DAY

United States

California

(1) Although the Woolsey Fire scorched 90% of Southern California's Santa Monica Mountains, destroying a 1950s Hollywood set and affecting biodiversity, life is slowly coming back.

Scorched film sets: a Hollywood park after wildfires

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2019/feb/14/national-park-hollywood-history-woolsey-fire-in-pictures>

(2) Actress Shannen Doherty filed a lawsuit Wednesday against her insurance company, State Farm, for allegedly not paying out an estimated \$1.4 million in benefits after the Woolsey Fire.

Shannen Doherty suing insurance company over California wildfires

<https://pagesix.com/2019/02/14/shannen-doherty-suing-insurance-company-over-california-wildfires/>



(3) A Temecula resident was sentenced to more than 12 years in state prison Thursday after he admitted to starting last summer's 13,000-acre Cranston Fire in the San Bernardino National Forest.

California man sentenced to more than 12 years for starting wildfire

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/14/us/california-cranston-fire-guilty-plea/index.html>

(4) CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit Chief has prioritized a few proactive measures to reduce the threat of wildfires in San Luis Obispo County for 2019, including conducting over 8,500 defensible space inspections, performing controlled burns on 2,000-4,000 acres, and mechanical thinning of over 500 acres of hazardous fuel.

County wildfire reduction planning continues for 2019 <https://atascaderonews.com/article/county-wildfire-reduction-planning-continues-for-2019>

(5) A Sacramento Bee investigation found that the state rejected more than \$20 million in firefighting damage and personal injury claims against CAL FIRE for damage they caused battling wildfires from January 2017 through October 2018.

Cal Fire damages your home or car? Good luck collecting money from the state

<https://www.modbee.com/news/state/california/article224107430.html>

(6) Wildfire survivors from Paradise reflected on the losses they suffered in the blaze and the 85 crosses which are reminders of all the people who died trying to escape the Camp Fire 100 days ago.

AP PHOTOS: Crosses outside Paradise drive home devastation

<https://www.apnews.com/9a1c10525dd44af9a1418150b18f4978>

(7) Gov. Gavin Newsom visited students affected by November's Camp Fire at Pine Ridge Elementary School on Thursday, a day after signing two bills that authorize additional \$131 million in additional financial support for wildfire-devastated counties.

'It's been a roller coaster': Gavin Newsom visits students displaced by Camp Fire

<https://www.modbee.com/news/state/california/article226307920.html>

(8) The federal judge who is overseeing a criminal case against Pacific Gas & Electric for its role in sparking wildfires demanded Thursday that the utility answer more questions about its efforts to clear trees and branches that can fall on its power lines and start wildfires.

Judge Critical of PG&E's Wildfire Role Demands More Answers <https://fox40.com/2019/02/14/judge-critical-of-pges-wildfire-role-demands-more-answers/>



(9) A Capital Public Radio segment takes a closer look at preparations by fire agencies and power utilities as they adapt to the new rules imposed by climate change on worsening wildfires.

What Happens When The Next Big Wildfire Hits? <http://www.caprado.org/articles/2019/02/14/what-happens-when-the-next-big-wildfire-hits/>

(10) The California Insurance Commissioner and Treasurer proposed that lawmakers permit the state to get private insurance coverage rather than self-insuring in order to stabilize California's budget and make wildfire costs more predictable.

California officials propose insurance to cover wildfire costs <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/430127-california-officials-propose-insurance-to-cover-wildfire-costs>

(11) Wildfire mitigation experts will be featured speakers at the 'Get Firewise: Organize!' event being held in Nevada County's Gene Albaugh Room of the Madelyn Helling Library on February 25th.

February 25th: Get Firewise: Organize! <https://yubanet.com/regional/february-25th-get-firewise-organize/>

Colorado

(12) The Baca County Sheriff reported that a 3,800-acre wildfire that threatened several structures before firefighters brought it under control six hours later was apparently started by a cigarette.

Wildfire that scorched thousands of acres in Baca County started by cigarette

<https://www.kktv.com/content/news/Crews-tackle-wildfire-started-by-a-person-in-Baca-County-that-prompted-evacuations-505810951.html>

(13) The Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association reported that state insurance departments in the Mountain West say they have no indication that homeowners are being denied insurance altogether, but homeowners in risky wildfire areas tell a different story.

Homeowners Insurance May Be Harder To Get In Risky Wildfire Areas

<https://www.kunc.org/post/homeowners-insurance-may-be-harder-get-risky-wildfire-areas#stream/0>

Texas

(14) Goodfellow Fire & Services will work with Texas A&M Forest Service to set controlled burns in southeastern areas of Goodfellow Air Force Base, in San Angelo, to reduce the possibility of wildfires.

Goodfellow Fire & Emergency Services to conduct controlled burns on base

<https://www.gosanangelo.com/story/news/local/2019/02/14/goodfellow-fire-emergency-set-off-controlled-burns/2869382002/>

Montana

(15) Wildfire NOTD subscriber Kelly Pohl, a Researcher at Headwaters Economics (<http://www.headwaterseconomics.org>), discussed how land use planning and logging can help protect communities at a time when many are advocating more logging following President Trump's executive order late last year.

Researchers: Land use planning would do more to prevent wildfire loss than Trump's order

https://missoulian.com/news/local/researchers-trump-s-plan-to-increase-logging-unlikely-to-dramatically/article_f7775b73-a057-5968-a735-52997b4a93ef.html

Virginia

(16) The Virginia Department of Forestry announced the commencement of the state's 75-day spring wildfire season, reminding residents of the prohibition of burning before 4 p.m. each day until April 30.

Friday marks the beginning of spring wildfire season <https://augustafreepress.com/friday-marks-the-beginning-of-spring-wildfire-season/>

South Carolina

(17) Controlled burns will be used for ecological purposes to benefit long leaf pines and to reduce the wildfire danger on the 265,000-acre Francis Marion National Forest.

Planned fires keep species from extinction in Francis Marion National Forest

<https://abcnews4.com/news/local/controlled-burns-keep-species-from-extinction-in-francis-marion-national-forest>

Canada

British Columbia

(18) Ranchers and farmers learned how to reduce the risk of property loss at a wildfire preparedness workshop held in north Okanagan on Thursday.

Wildfire preparedness workshop aims to inspire Okanagan farmers to get ready

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4963664/okanagan-wildfire-preparedness-workshop/>

Ontario

(19) Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. reported that it sustained \$232.7 million in insurance losses resulting from California wildfires that struck the state last year, compared with \$185.4 million in losses in 2017.

Fairfax suffers fewer losses from Mother Nature despite higher wildfire claims

<https://www.timescolonist.com/fairfax-suffers-fewer-losses-from-mother-nature-despite-higher-wildfire-claims-1.23634989>

Latin America

(20) In the Grenadines, the fire department officials stated that they intend to visit communities where bushfires are often lit in an effort to identify those responsible, following a blaze in Questelles which came very close to a house.

Fire department looking for bush fire culprits <https://searchlight.vc/searchlight/news/2019/02/15/fire-department-looking-for-bush-fire-culprits/>



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Europe

Spain

(21) Wildfire NOTD subscriber Luis Bordallo, President of Nitrofirex (<http://www.nitrofirex.com/>), sent along a press release which points the finger at DARPA and Airbus for using Nitrofirex's technology for some of their projects.

DARPA and Airbus imitate an idea patented by Nitrofirex with public funds.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EjEYQw5m0DYgmfErtnTERYFufalLWSwL/view?usp=sharing>

France

(22) Tangent Link sent along a notification that nominations for the International Aerial Firefighting Awards 2019 program are now open ahead of their conference, which will be taking place in Nîmes 19 - 20 March.

Submit your nominations for the International AFF Awards 2019 <https://www.aerial-firefighting-europe.com/>

Italy

(23) A 13-hectare wildfire spread into the woods between Egro of Cesara and the slope on the heights of Ronco of Pella, in the Province of Novara, as fire crews from Aib Forest Fire and VCO struggled to bring the blaze under control.

Fire has expanded in the hills of Lake Orta: 13 hectares of forest burned

<https://www.lastampa.it/2019/02/14/verbania/incendio-sulle-alture-del-lago-dorta-vigili-del-fuoco-e-volontari-mobilitati-alzjZbWB96YjFcdUmbXdDI/pagina.html>

Croatia

(24) Thirty-one members of the Dubrovnik Fire Brigade battled a wildfire which broke out around 9.00 PM Thursday night above the village of Soline, burned for around an hour before they extinguished it.

Fires breaks out in Župa <https://www.thedubrovniktimes.com/news/dubrovnik/item/6222-fires-breaks-out-in-zupa>

Asia

India

(25) Natural perennial waterbodies and 70 artificial ponds located in India's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve are fast depleting due to a prolonged dry spell, which has forced officials to cut 300 km of firebreaks through the reserve as the danger of wildfires grows.

MTR experiences dry spell <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/mtr-experiences-dry-spell/articleshow/68000549.cms>

Indonesia

(26) A new study from Greenpeace disclosed that Indonesian firms owe at least \$1.3 billion in unpaid fines for environmental damage caused by widespread forest clearing and deadly wildfires linked to tens of thousands of premature deaths.

Indonesian firms owe US\$1.3 billion in forest damage fines: Greenpeace

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/indonesian-firms-owe-us-1-3-billion-in-forest-damage-fines-11247116>

Oceania

New Zealand

(27) Explosives may be used to fell some dangerous, bushfire-weakened trees to help enable more Tasman district bushfire evacuees to return to their homes near Nelson.

Nelson bush fire: Dangerous, fire-affected trees delay homecoming for some residents

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/110620338/nelson-bush-fire-dangerous-fireaffected-trees-delay-homecoming-for-some-residents>

(28) Fire and Emergency New Zealand discussed the resources it's brought to bear on the increased fire risk caused by climate change after examining data from 21 weather stations across the island nation, beginning in 2011.

Fire and Emergency's preparations for climate change and increasing fire risk

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/382585/fire-and-emergency-s-preparations-for-climate-change-and-increasing-fire-risk>

(29) Kiwis from across the country have rallied together in support of those impacted by the 2,400-hectare Pigeon Valley bushfire, donating money, food, supplies, animal food and shelter for families in need.

Nelson bush fire: Where to donate to help those affected

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/110600557/nelson-bush-fire-where-to-donate-to-help-those-affected>

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Australia

Queensland

(30) Queensland Fire and Emergency Service reported that extensive water-bombing operations were performed on a 19,100-hectare bushfire near Wallangarra by two fixed-wing aircraft and a Helitack helicopter.

Water bombs target massive border bushfire <https://www.thechronicle.com.au/news/water-bombs-target-massive-border-bushfire/3647906/>

New South Wales

(31) With 28 bushfires still burning across the state by evening, authorities reported that 22 homes have been destroyed in the state's north.

Bushfire in northern NSW downgraded <https://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/national/bushfire-in-northern-nsw-downgraded/video/717d10038d6c45a394c47c776dc76fa3>

(32) Rural Fire Service officials reminded residents of Tabulam that an emergency warning remains in place for areas around the Bruxner Highway as a bushfire creeps towards homes.

Tabulam fire: emergency warning in place for Bruxner Highway, Tabulam fire <https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5901246/emergency-warning-for-tabulam-fire-homes-under-threat-update/>

(33) As firefighters continued to battle bushfires across the state, the next article provides a behind-the-scenes look at the incident management team working from the Northern Tablelands fire control centre in Glen Innes.

Bushfires burn in Tingha, Tabulam and Jennings: Northern Tablelands RFS monitor the situation from Glen Innes <https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5906870/behind-the-scenes-inside-the-regions-fire-hq-control-centre/>

(34) Up to 50 firefighters and six aircraft worked around the clock battling a 3,200-hectare bushfire outside of Linton amid windy conditions as they strengthened containment lines on the southern flank of the blaze.

Linton fire: Firefighters' hard work and fierce determination saves properties <https://www.northerndailyleader.com.au/story/5906478/firefighters-hard-work-and-fierce-determination-saves-properties/>



Best Regards,

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