



WILDFIRE NEWS OF THE DAY

United States

(1) To celebrate eight decades of Smokey Bear, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Association of State Foresters and the Ad Council are releasing a new public service advertisement paying homage to the legacy of the iconic wildfire prevention campaign.

Smokey Bear Celebrates 80th Birthday with New PSA Honoring His Legacy of Wildfire

Prevention <https://www.mediavillage.com/article/smokey-bear-celebrates-80th-birthday-with-new-psa-honoring-his-legacy-of-wildfire-prevention/>



California

(2) Wildfire NOTD subscriber Brian Fennessy, Orange County Fire Authority's Fire Chief (<https://www.ocfa.org/>), discussed the wildfire situation across Southern California as more than 200 teams signed up for the XPRIZE Wildfire competition, from which \$11 million in prizes will be paid out over four years.

CA firefighters compete to develop new technology to stop wildfires

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/local-2/ca-firefighters-compete-to-develop-new-technology-to-stop-wildfires/3346242/>

(3) A University of British Columbia professor presented his newly-published study on wildfire mitigation through federal policies and increased public awareness at the University of California Santa Barbara's Bren Hall on February 12th.

UBC professor discusses wildfire mitigation and self-protection at Bren Hall

<https://dailynexus.com/2024-02-22/ubc-professor-discusses-wildfire-mitigation-and-self-protection-at-bren-hall/>



(4) Fresno-based Caylym Technologies International LLC discussed operations with their Containerized Aerial Fire Fighting System (CAFFS), also known as Guardian, fighting wildfires in South America, with the Peruvian Air Force delivering a supply of the boxes to Colombia after that country suffered a particularly severe wildfire season, with over 340 wildfires since November.

This Fresno company's box is helping fight wildfires in Colombia

<https://www.yourcentralvalley.com/news/local-news/this-fresno-companys-box-is-helping-fight-wildfires-in-colombia/>

(5) Placer County has approved an RFP for the \$25 million Cabin Creek Biomass Facility in North Lake Tahoe, which was approved back in 2013 before it was shelved due to "uncertainty around the long-term economic feasibility of operating the facility."

California county to issue RFP for \$25 million biomass project to mitigate wildfire risk

<https://www.canadianbiomassmagazine.ca/california-county-to-issue-rfp-for-25-million-biomass-project-to-mitigate-wildfire-risk/>



Oregon

(6) In a new study published in the journal *JGR Biogeosciences*, researchers at Oregon State University warned that forests in the coolest, wettest parts of the western Pacific Northwest are likely to see the biggest increases in burn probability, fire size and number of blazes as the climate continues to get warmer and drier.

Cooler, wetter parts of Pacific Northwest likely to see more wildfires, new OSU-Forest Service

simulations predict <https://ktvz.com/news/environment/2024/02/22/cooler-wetter-parts-of-pacific-northwest-likely-to-see-more-wildfires-new-osu-forest-service-simulations-predict/>

(7) U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore talked about forest fires, logging and sustainability practices Thursday at the 86th annual Oregon Logging Conference at the Lane County Fairgrounds, answering three important questions.

3 questions with U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore

<https://www.registerguard.com/story/news/2024/02/23/us-forest-service-chief-randy-moore-wildfires-eugene-oregon-logging-conference/72702416007/>



Washington

(8) The Spokane Region Long Term Recovery Group met with federal officials at the Salvation Army in Spokane Thursday night to discuss FEMA money made available for people affected by the wildfires in Medical Lake and Elk last August.

Recovery leaders talk about FEMA funding for victims of Spokane wildfires

<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/wildfire/recovery-leaders-fema-funding-victims-spokane-wildfires/293-5cc733bf-1787-4943-9c80-30f032041c38>

Nevada

(9) The Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition just finished scattering seeds from aircraft across more than 26,000 acres of eastern Nevada public land damaged by wildfires, doing their part to rehabilitate the burn areas.

Scattering seeds: How plant growth is assisted after wildfires

https://elkodaily.com/news/local/how-plant-growth-is-assisted-by-seeing-after-wildfires/article_61b5bf86-d11d-11ee-a456-8f13cbfc9322.html



Colorado

(10) Ahead of what is expected to be an early wildfire season, the West Region Wildfire Council is offering to help San Miguel County residents reduce their wildfire risk and become better fire-adapted in an area which is at greater fire risk than 83% of counties in the United States.

Nonprofit will help residents reduce wildfire risks to their homes

https://www.telluridenews.com/news/article_2af98698-d1e1-11ee-bf0a-8bc4c058a643.html

(11) The West Region Wildfire Council, in conjunction with the Baldy Mountain Landscape Resiliency and Habitat Improvement Project, is offering free vegetation management to qualifying property owners within the Baldy Mountain Priority Area for a limited time.

Free wildfire mitigation in the Baldy Mountain Project Area

https://www.montrosepress.com/free_access/free-wildfire-mitigation-in-the-baldy-mountain-project-area/article_ce7df982-d049-11ee-a81c-13d54c6bc5fb.html

Idaho

(12) From March 4th through March 15th, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be accepting applications for entry-level permanent wildland firefighter and dispatcher positions throughout the Forests.

Entry-Level Wildland Firefighter Hiring Event <https://dailyfly.com/entry-level-wildland-firefighter-hiring-event/>

Texas

(13) The Wichita County Sheriff reported that partially burned yard clippings are believed to have been the cause of a wildfire on Burnett Ranch Road on the northwest side of Buffalo Lake that was fought by firefighters from Wichita West, Iowa Park and Sheppard Air Force Base.

Hot embers to blame in morning wildfire near Iowa Park

<https://www.texomashomepage.com/news/local-news/hot-embers-to-blame-in-morning-wildfire-near-iowa-park/>

(14) With Texas A&M Forest Service noting that there were around 20 wildfires near Fort Worth and surrounding counties in 2023, resulting in over 2,700 acres burned, the Weatherford affiliate of Goats on the Go, a company made up of local, independently-owned goat grazing businesses that provide weed and brush control, is doing their part to ameliorate the problem.

Goats may help fight wildfires <https://www.columbian.com/news/2024/feb/23/goats-may-help-fight-wildfires/>

Iowa

(15) Firefighters battled a small wildfire which broke out at 1912 D Avenue in the Montgomery County community of Red Oak on Thursday afternoon, where a debris fire had gotten out of control and spread quickly to two dilapidated outbuildings, one of which had begun to burn on the exterior.

Firefighters respond to Grass Fire in Montgomery County on Thursday afternoon

<https://westerniowatoday.com/2024/02/22/firefighters-respond-to-grass-fire-in-montgomery-county-on-thursday-afternoon/>

Tennessee

(16) Tennessee Division of Forestry reported that firefighters continued to battle a 115-acre wildfire Wednesday afternoon near LaFollette that endangered some structures, bringing it to around 25% contained.

Spring fire starts with a few large fires across East Tennessee

<https://www.wbir.com/article/news/local/start-of-spring-fire-season-2024/51-700a1544-6dbe-4bb6-9164-e74525e4bf92>

New Jersey

(17) New Jersey Forest Fire Service's Assistant Division Forest Fire Warden discussed how the state fire agency is preparing for wildfires of the future by conducting prescribed burns in the Colliers Mills Wildlife Management Area, in Ocean County.

New Jersey Forest Fire Service continues prescribed burning following "abnormally active fire year" <https://www.cbsnews.com/philadelphia/news/wildfires-in-new-jersey-forest-fire-service/>

Virginia

(18) The emergency management coordinator for Pulaski County announced that New River Valley fire crews are conducting prescribed burns to reduce the wildfire danger during the spring forest fire danger period.

New River Valley crews conducting prescribed burns

<https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2024/02/22/new-river-valley-crews-conducting-prescribed-burns/>

North Carolina

(19) A district forester with the North Carolina Forest Service reported that firefighters have fully contained the 54-acre wildfire burning in Madison County, successfully protecting 13 homes that were threatened by the blaze.

Firefighters are able to protect homes threatened in Madison County wildfire

<https://www.bpr.org/bpr-news/2024-02-22/firefighters-are-able-to-protect-homes-threatened-in-madison-county-wildfire>

(20) A wildland firefighter shared stories from the firelines after being on the frontline of the wildfire in Madison County earlier this week, where North Carolina Forest Service personnel worked to protect more than a dozen structures.

Local wildland firefighter saves homes from 60-acre wildfire in Madison County

<https://wlos.com/news/local/local-wildland-firefighter-eric-love-slaughter-saves-neighborhood-from-60-acre-wildfire-in-madison-county-north-carolina-forest-service>

(21) Elizabethtown Fire Department officials reported that their crews, along with North Carolina Forest Service and Lisbon Volunteer Fire Department personnel, responded to a wildfire on Thursday

afternoon, amid dry, windy conditions.

Elizabethtown Fire Department responds to brush fire

<https://www.wect.com/2024/02/22/elizabethtown-fire-department-responds-brush-fire/>

Georgia

(22) Residents in the south Georgia community of Valdosta, in Lowndes County, discussed the program of prescribed burning being conducted by firefighters to reduce the wildfire danger amid debris left behind by Hurricane Idalia last August.

Lowndes County sets prescribed burns to get ahead of wildfire season

<https://www.wtxl.com/valdosta/lowndes-county-sets-prescribed-burns-to-get-ahead-of-wildfire-season>

Florida

(23) Walton County Fire Rescue officials reported that firefighters from the Florida Forest Service, assisted by volunteers from Argyle and Liberty, battled a prescribed burn which breached containment lines due to windy conditions and ignited a large woods fire in Gaskin Thursday afternoon.

Firefighters battle woods fire in Gaskin <https://www.mypanhandle.com/news/local-news/walton-county/firefighters-battle-woods-fire-in-gaskin/>

Hawaii

(24) Lahaina wildfire survivors were updated at the Lahaina Civic Center on the US Army Corps of Engineers' progress in removing ash and debris from residential properties destroyed August 8th, learning the public survey results on the final disposal site for debris from thousands of burned homes.

Lahaina wildfire survivors updated on debris removal, survey results for final disposal site

<https://mauinow.com/2024/02/22/lahaina-wildfire-survivors-updated-on-debris-removal-survey-results-for-final-disposal-site/>



Canada

(25) The next article revisits the problem of zombie fires, forest fires still smoldering after Canada's most destructive fire season ever recorded, when 6,551 fires scorched nearly 71,000 square miles from the West Coast to the Atlantic provinces.

Canada wildfires never stopped, they just went underground as "zombie fires" smolder on through the winter <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/canada-wildfires-never-stopped-zombie-fires-smolder-winter/>

British Columbia

(26) The City of Salmon Arm and the Salmon Arm Fire Department are organizing a Wildfire Mitigation Town Hall Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th, which will offer an opportunity to learn about wildfire mitigation efforts that have been, or are being taken by the city, residents and local industry, and what steps people can take to protect their own properties.

City, Salmon Arm Fire Department host community wildfire mitigation meeting

<https://www.eaglevalleynews.com/local-news/city-salmon-arm-fire-department-host-community-wildfire-mitigation-meeting-7321110>

Alberta

(27) With the wildfire season in Alberta officially underway, Drayton Valley/Brazeau County is hosting information sessions for volunteer contractors, such as construction workers, water haulers and heavy equipment operators, who want to lend a hand if the season becomes difficult.

Dozens of contractors looking to volunteer in the firefight as Alberta wildfire season kicks off

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/alberta-wildfire-volunteer-preparations-1.7123129>

Latin America

Guatemala

(28) A voracious forest fire continued to blaze across the slopes of an inactive volcano about 30 km southwest of Guatemala City, as firefighting brigades and military personnel battled the blaze, supported by two helicopters.

Forest Fires Engulf Agua Volcano's Slopes, Guatemala Battles the Blaze

<https://ticotimes.net/2024/02/22/forest-fires-engulf-agua-volcanos-slopes-guatemala-battles-the-blaze>

Venezuela

(29) In a year which has already seen dozens of wildfires scorch thousands of hectares in the states of Aragua, Monagas, Carabobo, Táchira, Mérida and the capital city of Caracas, including in El Ávila National Park, the next article takes a closer look at wildfires in Venezuela.

Forest fires in Venezuela: a silent menace <https://www.lapatilla.com/2024/02/23/forest-fires-in-venezuela-a-silent-menace/>

Asia

China

(30) China's disaster response authorities are operating flat out, including dispatching guidance teams to the front lines, to deal with a spate of wildfires in Southwest China caused by weather and human factors.

Disaster teams respond to forest fires

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/23/WS65d7f7b1a31082fc043b8b6a.html>

Philippines

(31) Mountaineers were told by the Mount Pulag Protected Landscape Area Management Office that

there will be no climbing to the top of Mount Pulag after the Panagbenga, due to a forest fire which is burning at Lower Eddet in Kabayan, in Benguet Province.

Take note, mountaineers: Pulag's Akiki Trail closed due to forest fire

<https://www.rappler.com/nation/luzon/mount-pulag-akiki-trail-closed-due-to-forest-fire/>

Thailand

(32) Forest fires raging at the base of Doi Suthep mountain are not only a direct threat to the flora and fauna, but have also catapulted the region's air quality to hazardous levels, raising concerns about the health and safety of sensitive individuals.

Battling the Blaze: Forest Fires Threaten Chiang Mai's Air Quality Amid Rising Temperatures

<https://bnnbreaking.com/world/thailand/battling-the-blaze-forest-fires-threaten-chiang-mais-air-quality-amid-rising-temperatures>

Oceania

(33) A researcher at the Victoria University of Wellington discussed the impact of climate change on bushfires like last week's 650-hectare blaze in Christchurch's Port Hills, perhaps auguring more of the same in the future.

Climate change is fanning the flames of NZ's wildfire future. Port Hills is only the beginning

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-is-fanning-the-flames-of-nzs-wildfire-future-port-hills-is-only-the-beginning-224133>

Australia

Queensland

(34) Researchers at the University of Queensland weighed in on the increased danger bushfire smoke poses to the youngest members of the population, which can worsen existing conditions such as asthma, and induce a range of health effects from irritation of the eyes, nose and throat to changes in the cardiovascular system.

Bushfire smoke affects children differently. Here's how to protect them

<https://theconversation.com/bushfire-smoke-affects-children-differently-heres-how-to-protect-them-215535>

New South Wales

(35) The \$4.5 million Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Aboriginal Cultural Landscapes Project, a land management pilot created in response to recommendations from the NSW Bushfire Inquiry which followed the Black Summer disaster, has been launched at 4 sites across the First State.

NSW Government Boosts Bushfire Resilience with Traditional Practices

<https://www.miragenews.com/nsw-government-boosts-bushfire-resilience-with-1179901/>

Victoria

(36) The Sydney Morning Herald provided a compendium of articles which offer a timeline of events as bushfires marched across Victoria, destroying homes and infrastructure, killing livestock, and prompting the Premier to urge residents of western Victoria to flee the 14,000-hectare Pyrenees blaze.

Victoria fires as it happened: Property, livestock lost as winds push bushfire north toward

Elmhurst <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/victoria/victoria-fires-live-updates-anxious-night-for-beaufort-residents-cooler-temperatures-ahead-20240222-p5f776.html>

(37) The breakdown of a 15-year-old pumper tanker en route to a bushfire in Beaufort, followed by the malfunction of its intended replacement due to overheating, paints a dire picture of the challenges faced by Fire Rescue Victoria, prompting calls for fleet upgrades to replace ageing equipment.

Victorian Firefighters Call for Fleet Upgrade After Critical Breakdowns Amidst Bushfires

<https://bnnbreaking.com/politics/victorian-firefighters-call-for-fleet-upgrade-after-critical-breakdowns-amidst-bushfires>

(38) Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC (<http://www.bnhcrc.com.au>), sent along the latest edition of Natural Hazards Research Australia.

Natural Hazards Research Australia: February 2024

<https://mailchi.mp/naturalhazards.com.au/natural-hazards-research-australia-august-3117562?e=4ceed2d92f>

Western Australia

(39) Strike Force Vulcan investigators are probing the cause of four bushfires that were sparked in Perth's southern suburbs on Wednesday, asking to speak to anyone in the vicinity of the fires who might have seen something suspicious.

Rockingham bushfires: Arson squad probing the cause of four suspicious bushfires on

Wednesday night <https://thewest.com.au/news/wa/rockingham-bushfires-arson-squad-probing-the-cause-of-four-suspicious-bushfires-on-wednesday-night-c-13698899>

Tasmania

(40) Authorities have confirmed that at least two shacks and one shed have been destroyed in a bushfire on the western side of Osterly and another two on either side of Dee Lagoon, all of which are believed to have been deliberately lit in the Central Highlands.

Two homes and one shed destroyed by suspicious bushfires in Tasmania's Highlands

<https://pulsetasmania.com.au/news/two-homes-and-1-shed-destroyed-in-suspicious-tasmanian-highland-bushfires/>

(41) Tasmania Police have launched a criminal investigation into the cause of two blazes that tore through Tasmania's Central Highlands on Wednesday, where a teenager and 67-year-old man were found lighting fires in separate incidents during the state's total fire ban.

Tasmania Police suspect Central Highland blazes deliberately lit, as two caught lighting fires

in state's south <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-23/criminal-investigation-central-highlands-bushfires/103500458>

(42) Tasmania Fire Service officials reported that firefighters battled a bushfire overnight that was burning on Atkins Street in the Rokeby area, one of several such blazes which have cropped up during the current total fire ban.

Firefighters battle bushfire burning in Rokeby area during total fire ban

<https://pulsetasmania.com.au/news/firefighters-battle-bushfire-burning-in-rokeby-area-during-total-fire-ban/>

NEXT GEN AERIAL FIREFIGHTING

PROTECTING OUR WORLD FROM WILDFIRES



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