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WILDFIRE NEWS OF THE DAY

United States

(1) The National Interagency Fire Center reported that 43,255 wildfires have burned 5,702,368 acres to date, which is below the 10-year average of 44,121 fires burning 4,694,653 acres.

2018 wildfire season nears its 10-year average for nation <https://kdvr.com/2018/08/15/2018s-wildfire-season-near-its-10-year-average-for-the-nation/>



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California

(2) After a months-long, often bitter feud which in some cases led to delays in transporting injured people to hospitals and could hamper wildfire responses, Orange County Fire Authority and the Orange County Sheriff's Department have come to an agreement on the use of emergency helicopters in the Southern California county.

Compromise Reached in CA Chopper Spat <https://www.firehouse.com/rescue/news/21018288/orange-county-ca-helicopter-chopper-fire-sheriff-dispute-firefighters>

(3) A new study from the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Process Center at the University of Pennsylvania included among its recommendations that California utilities should pay for property damages from wildfires only if it was determined that they acted negligently.

Study says California utilities should only pay for wildfires if they are negligent

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/business/energy-green/sd-fi-wharton-wildfires-20180815-story.html>

(4) A team of fire experts and community volunteers have worked for two years to draft a 200-page wildfire protection plan for the San Marcos Pass–Eastern Goleta Valley communities that would include 38 thinning projects on 250 acres to help protect mountain residents from wildfire.

Saving Mountain Dwellers from Wildfire <https://www.independent.com/news/2018/aug/16/saving-mountain-dwellers-wildfire/>

(5) The San Francisco Chronicle provided a brief summary of wildfires burning across the Golden State, marking the memorial procession for a firefighter killed on the Mendocino Complex Fire.

Firefighters make gains in battle against California wildfires <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Firefighters-make-gains-in-battle-against-13160839.php>

(6) Officials with the US Forest Service said the 7,650-acre Hirz Fire, which is burning about 5 miles east of Lakehead, continues to spread north and west as firefighters work to contain the blaze.

UPDATE: Hirz Fire at 7,650 acres, 5 percent contained

<https://www.redding.com/story/news/local/2018/08/15/stubborn-hirz-fire-near-lake-shasta-eclipses-7-300-acres/996887002/>

(7) A report on the July 26 death of Jeremy Stoke says the Redding firefighter was killed instantly by a "fire tornado" with a base the size of three football fields and winds up to 165 miles an hour as it blazed along the

Carr Fire fireline.

Report: 'Fire Tornado' Killed CA Firefighter <https://www.firehouse.com/safety-health/news/21018254/redding-ca-firefighter-killed-report-fire-tornado-carr-fire-wildfire>

(8) As CAL FIRE firefighters continue to increase containment on the massive wildfire, other crews with heavy equipment are moving in behind the firefighters to repair the damage done.

After firefighting rips up the land, crews move in to fix it

<https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/firefighting-mars-earth-california-crews-fixing-57196131>

(9) Photographer Stuart Palley shared photos from 45 California wildfires which will be featured in a book of nighttime wildfires titled "Terra Flamma," to be released in September.

The beauty and horror of 45 California wildfires, as seen at night <https://www.sfgate.com/california-wildfires/article/fire-photographs-night-terra-flamma-photographer-13148111.php>

(10) A series of Letters to the Editor of the Los Angeles Times shows the variety of opinions about what is fueling wildfires that continue to burn across the Golden State.

Our summer of wildfires and climate warning <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-ol-le-lopez-climate-change-20180814-story.html>

(11) A New York Times article advised travelers about the impact of several major California wildfires on tourist areas which help generate \$132 billion worth of income for the state in a typical year.

California Fires: What Travelers Need to Know <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/16/travel/california-fires-tourism-yosemite.html>

(12) More than nine months after the Tubbs Fire ripped through Sonoma and Napa counties, Santa Rosa neighborhoods where more than 5,600 homes were destroyed, are beginning to return to normal, but reconstruction could take a couple of years.

Santa Rosa residents begin rebuilding after wildfire destroys homes

<https://www.kcra.com/article/santa-rosa-residents-begin-rebuilding-after-wildfire-destroys-homes/22741745>

(13) A bear cub whose paws were badly burned in the Carr Fire is on the road to recovery thanks to a treatment that includes using tilapia skin to more quickly heal the burns.

Bear cub burned in California wildfire kicks back in hammock as paws heal

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/bear-cub-burned-in-california-wildfire-kicks-back-in-hammock-as-paws-heal/>

Oregon

(14) Insitu, which manufactures the ScanEagle drone, discussed the advantages a night-capable drone provides over wildfires as one of its drones logged 110 flight hours in 16 flights over the Taylor Creek Fire west of Grants Pass and the Grave Creek Fire north of Wimer.

Drones play growing role in firefighting https://mtribune.com/northwest/drones-play-growing-role-in-firefighting/article_04f27676-0bc0-5fc6-a61d-63d88b674bd4.html

(15) With more than 46 million homes residing in wildfire-prone areas across the U.S., Oregon Public Broadcasting provided some tips to homeowners on how to prepare their property to withstand a blaze.

How To Prepare Your Home For Wildfire <https://www.opb.org/news/article/wildfire-protect-home-how-to/>

Washington

(16) The Environmental Protection Agency reported that Seattle's air-quality index was unhealthy on Wednesday due to smoke from wildfires in Eastern Washington, making it worse than the air quality in Beijing.

Seattle's air quality 'worse than Beijing' as wildfires scorch eastern Washington

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2018/08/15/seattles-air-quality-worse-than-beijing-as-wildfires-scorch-eastern-washington.html>

Arizona

(17) The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management reported that two firefighters from the Elephant Head Volunteer Fire Department were injured in a rollover accident as they helped fight the Carr Fire.

Two Arizona firefighters returning from Carr Fire injured in Nevada rollover

<https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-breaking/2018/08/15/two-arizona-firefighters-elephant-head-volunteer-fire-dept-amado-injured-rollover-accident-nevada/999693002/>



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Colorado

(18) Nearly 4,000 people have signed an online petition asking the Douglas County Board of Commissioners to reconsider a decision that would require Rampart Helicopter, which has fought a number of wildfires near Castle Rock, to vacate the area.

Neighbors fight to keep private firefighting helicopter in DougCo

<https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/next/neighbors-fight-to-keep-private-firefighting-helicopter-in-dougco/73-584516395>

Utah

(19) Wildfire NOTD subscriber Jason Curry, PIO for Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (<https://ffsl.utah.gov/>), sent along the morning update on the 26,380-acre Coal Hollow Fire, burning 11 miles northeast of Price, which is currently 16% contained.

Coal Hollow Fire Update <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16biGz9NI2fLurJGBvK04EJ-4d5pY3TLv/view?usp=sharing>



Montana

(20) The Flathead County Sheriff's Office issued an evacuation warning to a small number of residents near Essex Wednesday afternoon due to the continued spread of the 370-acre Paola Ridge Fire towards the community.

Evacuation warning issued for area near Essex

http://www.dailyinterlake.com/breaking_news/20180815/evacuation_warning_issued_for_area_near_essex

(21) A National Public Radio segment looked at the destruction done by the Howe Ridge Fire to cabins at Kelly's Camp, which is listed as a historic district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic Cabins In Montana Destroyed By Wildfires <https://www.npr.org/2018/08/15/639001278/historic-cabins-in-montana-destroyed-by-wildfires>

Florida

(22) The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services concluded that controlled burn contractor Wildlands Service Inc. was responsible for the 800-acre Lime Rock Fire that destroyed over three dozen homes in Eastpoint June 24.

Final report: State contractor responsible for wildfire that torched Eastpoint homes

<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2018/08/15/investigation-shows-state-contractor-responsible-eastpoint-wildfire/999893002/>

Canada

British Columbia

(23) As nearly 600 wildfires burn across British Columbia, a provincial state of emergency has been declared, which will be in place for 14 days to ensure that provincial, federal and local resources can be delivered in a coordinated response to the blazes.

B.C. declares provincial state of emergency due to wildfires <https://globalnews.ca/news/4388826/b-c->

[declares-provincial-state-of-emergency-wildfires/](#)

Saskatchewan

(24) Environment Canada reported poor air quality and reduced visibility in all but six northern regions in the province, warning people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, children and seniors to be especially careful.

Province blanketed in smoke from forest fires

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/saskatchewan-weather-smoke-1.4787028>

Manitoba

(25) Environment Canada issued a special air quality statement for Manitoba's southwest, including Brandon, Dauphin, and communities near the U.S. border, due to smoke from forest fires in Western Canada.

Smoke from western forest fires drifts into southwestern Manitoba

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/air-quality-statement-southwest-manitoba-1.4785872>

Ontario

(26) The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry reported that all 42 forest fires burning in the Northeast Region are finally under control, or being held for the first time in weeks.

No more forest fires burning out of control <https://www.mywestnipissingnow.com/23173/no-more-forest-fires-burning-out-of-control/>

(27) An update from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry shows that the 27,285-hectare North Bay 72 Fire, which started in early July in Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Park, in the Northeast Region near Lake Temagami, is contained at the moment.

Forest fire situation updated <http://speaker.northernontario.ca/forest-fire-situation-updated/>

(28) A helicopter flyover provided a bird's-eye view of smoke and scorched trees near Britt, where the Parry Sound 33 Fire has wrought devastation.

A helicopter view of Ontario forest fire damage <https://www.680news.com/video/2018/08/16/a-helicopter-view-of-ontario-forest-fire-damage/>

(29) The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is asking for the public's help in locating some people they believe are responsible for lighting a wildfire on a small island in the Lake of the Woods.

MNRF seeks people responsible for starting forest fire on Lake of the Woods

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/forest-fire-investigation-1.4785923>



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Europe

Portugal

(30) The National Civil Protection Authority reported that firefighters were contending with five rural wildfires yesterday in the afternoon.

Fires: Five ongoing fires at 15:30 <https://24.sapo.pt/atualidade/artigos/incendios-cinco-fogos-em-curso-as-1530-freixo-de-espada-a-cinta-reune-mais-meios>

(31) The National Civil Protection Authority reported that around 100 personnel, supported by two aircraft, have controlled a wildfire that broke out in the northern city Guimarães' Gonça parish.

Fire: forest fire in Guimarães contained <https://24.sapo.pt/atualidade/artigos/incendios-uma-centena-de-operacionais-combatem-fogo-florestal-em-guimaraes>

Italy

(32) A wildfire above Tremosine on the west side of Lake Garda, which threw up a smoke cloud visible from Malcesine and much of Upper Garda, brought back uneasy memories of a 500-hectare blaze that burned near the same area last fall.

Fire above Tremosine, smoke visible from Malcesine. Another disaster this fall feared

<http://www.ildolomiti.it/cronaca/2018/incendio-sopra-tremosine-fumo-visibile-da-malcesine-si-teme-il-disastro-di-questo>

Croatia

(33) Fire crews from the Civil Protection Operations Center in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton managed to snuff a wildfire which broke out in difficult terrain near Citluk and stretched across several kilometers at its height.

Fire in Citluk extinguished, CNT reported another fifteen <http://avaz.ba/vijesti/crna-hronika/405744/ugasen-pozar-u-citluku-u-hnk-registrirano-jos-petnaestak>

(34) An Airtractor AT-802 and two Canadair CL-415s helped battle a wildfire near Pisak, in Split-Dalmatia County, in a season that has seen Air Force planes battle nearly three dozen wildfires.

Fire near Pisak: Two Canadair respond <https://dnevnik.hr/vijesti/hrvatska/zracne-snage-angazirane-na-pozaristu-kod-omisa---527147.html>

Greece

(35) Forty firefighters, supported by 20 vehicles and two helicopters, brought a wildfire that broke out early Wednesday afternoon near Agios Stefanos, on the Aegean island of Corfu, under partial control.

Fire in Agios Stefanos under partial control <http://athina984.gr/wp-site/2018/08/15/ypo-meriko-elegcho-i-fotia-ston-agio-stefano/>

Cyprus

(36) A large wildfire that broke out Wednesday afternoon in a forest area near the Kykkos Monastery threatened houses in the Milikouri community as personnel from the Forestry Department and the Fire Service battled the blaze, with the assistance of seven firefighting aircraft.

Large fire rages on Cyprus <http://www.gazzetta.gr/plus/diethni/article/1260651/megali-fotia-mainetai-stin-kypro>

Turkey

(37) Over 150 firefighters battled a 15-hectare wildfire that was reported near the village of İbrahimözü, in Bolu Province's District of Göynük.

Bolu Forest Fire (2) <https://www.haberler.com/bolu-da-orman-yangini-2-2-11151509-haberi/>

(38) About 300 personnel grappled with a 17-hectare wildfire burning in steep terrain near the village Çayırliin, in Batman Province's Sason District, finally controlling the blaze late last night.

Forest fire controlled in Batman <https://www.haberler.com/batman-daki-orman-yangini-kontrol-altina-alindi-11148949-haberi/>



Australia

Queensland

(39) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services reported that fire crews responded to a bushfire which broke out yesterday afternoon at Redbank Plains, but is posing no threat to property at this time.

Fire crews battle bushfire near Redbank Plains <https://www.gt.com.au/news/breaking-fire-crews-battle-bushfire-near-redbank-p/3495168/>

New South Wales

(40) The New South Wales Rural Fire Service reported that two homes had been destroyed by a bushfire near Bega due to windy conditions as more than 80 fires continue to burn along the Great Dividing Range from the Queensland border to Victoria.

NSW bushfires: two homes lost near Bega as winds worsen conditions

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/aug/16/nsw-bushfires-very-high-fire-danger-as-damaging-winds-forecast>

(41) The Rural Fire Service continued to battle as many as nine bushfires and hazard reduction burns, some of them burning in difficult terrain, across the Port Macquarie-Hastings, Walcha and Mid-Coast councils areas.

Rural Fire Service adopts watch and monitor on series of bushfires, hazard reductions

<https://www.wauchopegazette.com.au/story/5590533/caparra-bushfire-a-concern-for-rural-fire-service/>

(42) Bemboka Community Centre committee volunteers helped make over 60 sandwiches, homemade scones and cakes for firefighters battling a 3,000-hectare bushfire burning near the town.

Bemboka bushfire: Community gathers to feed firies <https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/news/local-news/5590206/bemboka-bushfire-community-gathers-to-feed-firies/>

(43) The Tathra Forest Wildlife Reserve Trust has secured funds to repair the infrastructure along over three km of walking trails destroyed during the March bushfire, including signage, parking areas, seating, steps, a lookout and boardwalks.

Tathra rebuilds bushfire damaged wildlife reserve

<https://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/5590460/tathra-rebuilds-bushfire-damaged-wildlife-reserve/>

Victoria

(44) Record-breaking low rainfall in parts of Victoria is forcing Country Fire Authority to bring forward the start of its bushfire season to September in Gippsland, the north-eastern parts of Victoria as well, the Otways and along the Murray.

Victoria bracing for worst fire season in a decade <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-08-16/victoria-warned-to-brace-for-worst-fire-season-in-a-decade/10128402>

Best Regards,

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