

Weather feeds rash of U.S. wildfires

by UPI

LOS ANGELES - Hot, dry weather was feeding a spate of wildfires burning in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, South Dakota, Utah and Washington.

In southwest South Dakota, one man was killed near Hot Springs on Sunday when he returned to his evacuated home to pick something up, the Rapid City (S.D.) Journal reported Monday.

Fire officials said the Alabaugh Canyon Fire was sparked by lightning and had consumed 4,890 acres and was 20 percent contained late Sunday.

Smoke from a Utah fire was blamed on the deaths of two Californians involved in a chain-reaction crash on Interstate 15 in poor visibility, The Los Angeles Times reported.

California officials said two fires in the Inyo National Forest had burned about 34,000 acres and were 15 percent contained on average, the Times said.

In Arizona, at least six lightning-sparked fires had each burned about 1,000 acres, the Arizona Republic reported.

In Utah, the Milford Flat Fire set a record as the state's biggest, with 283,000 acres scorched, the Salt Lake (Utah) Tribune reported. Smoke caused a motorcycle crash Saturday that killed two people on Interstate 15 near Fillmore, the report said.

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