

18 die in Romania's one-week heat wave

by UPI

BUCHAREST, Romania -- Eighteen people have died across Romania as temperatures as high as 108 degrees Fahrenheit swept the Balkan country, media said Monday. Romanian Health Minister Eugen Nicolaescu told reporters the death toll rose to 15 during the weekend, and Bucharest doctors said three more people died Monday due to heat-related health problems. The heat wave gripped Romania early last week and by Friday nine people perished, six people died Saturday, the NineO'clock Web site said. Romanian Interior Minister Cristian David said special assistance in coping with the unusual heat was being granted to more than 110,000 people all over Romania, including 22,000 in the capital, the national news agency Rompress said. David said about 1,650 cooling centers were set up around the country.

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