

Arrests in Greek fires rise to 33

by UPI

ATHENS, Greece - The number of people arrested on suspicion of setting scores of wildfires in Greece has risen to 33, Greek federal officials announced Tuesday. The Ministry of Health reported the death toll had risen to 63, the Athens News Agency reported. Tuesday morning, firefighters said 89 new fires were started in the previous 24 hours and dozens of others were burning throughout the country unchecked. Airplanes and helicopters are assisting fire trucks and hand-to-hand bucket brigades in some places. Cyprus, France and Israel have sent firefighters, while France, Italy and Spain have provided firefighting aircraft, the agency reported. Helicopters were also being used to evacuate villages, Kathimerini reported. Monday, Prosecutor Dimitris Papangelopoulos ordered an investigation into whether the fires could have been the work of terrorists. There have been numerous suspicious fires in Greece since June but the major onslaught began Friday.

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