

More than 200 wild fires hit Algeria

by UPI

ALGIERS, Algeria - More than 200 forest fires have burned in Algeria in the past two days, killing at least eight people, officials said Friday. Algeria is the latest country in the Mediterranean area to suffer from wild fires this summer. Greece has been hit by thousands of fires, which have killed scores of people, threatened classical monuments and scorched the mountains around Athens. Major fires have also been reported in Turkey and Italy. Many of the fires in Greece and Italy have been blamed on arson. The Algerian General Civil Defense Directorate reported 204 fires in 23 provinces, the Algeria Presse Service reported. More than 6,000 people have been fighting the blazes. Six of the deaths were in in Tizi-Ouzou, while two people were killed and 29 houses destroyed in Jijel. In Blida, where 140 fires were reported, five houses were damaged and 15 families forced out.

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