

# NASA image: Fires plague Portugal

August 29 2013

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Portugal has been experiencing the worst drought in years. Drought and the dry conditions that follow lead to wildfires set by just a spark or a lightning strike. Portugal's north has been plagued with wildfires due to these such conditions. Spain and France have joined their firefight lending water-dumping aircraft in an effort to quell the raging fires. The dry conditions, heat, high winds, and difficult terrain in the area where the fires have been most active have produced what the firefighters over there have dubbed "the perfect storm." Credit: NASA image courtesy Jeff Schmaltz LANCE/EOSDIS MODIS Rapid Response Team, GSFC.

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Portugal's Serra da Estrela National Park (south of the city of Porto) was finally under control on Saturday after 300 firefighters, with the help of planes and helicopters, battled against the flames for more than 24 hours. However, one firefighter was killed and nine other were injured during the firefighting activities. To date, four emergency workers have been killed battling Portugal's blazes. In Portugal almost 31,000 hectares (76,000 acres) have been destroyed by fire this year, according to its Institute for the Conservation of Nature and Forests. The cause of the blazes is still under investigation and 47 suspects have been questioned to date.

Provided by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

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