

Turkey wildfires death toll rises to eight

1 August 2021



the flames.

Over 1,100 residents were taken to another part of Bodrum aboard nearly 20 boats, mayor Ahmet Aras said, since it was not possible to evacuate people by road.

Fire in eastern Turkey

More residents were evacuated from the coastal city of Marmaris in Mugla province by boat with assistance from the naval force, the defence ministry said.

Turkey has suffered the worst fires in at least a decade, official data show.

The death toll from wildfires in southern Turkey rose to eight following the discovery of two bodies on Sunday, officials said, as more people including tourists were evacuated to safety.

Turkey has suffered the worst fires in at least a decade, official data show, with nearly 95,000 hectares (235,000 acres) burned so far this year, compared with an average of 13,516 hectares at this point in the year between 2008 and 2020.

Two bodies were found in Manavgat town in Antalya province, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca tweeted.

The Turkish national and a German died in their fire-damaged home, according to state news agency Anadolu.

Since the fires broke out Wednesday, 864 people have received medical treatment, the health minister said.

Several neighbourhoods in the tourist city of Bodrum were evacuated, the mayor said Sunday, as [strong winds](#) from nearby Milas district fanned



Since the fires broke out Wednesday, six people have died and more than 330 have received medical treatment.

People were also evacuated from the village of Sirkoy in Antalya, NTV broadcaster reported Sunday, showing images of grey smoke clouds enveloping homes.

Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said 111 [forest fires](#) were now under control, while five blazes continued in the holiday regions of Antalya and Mugla.

He added that another forest fire was recorded in the eastern province of Tunceli.

Temperatures are set to remain high in the region after record levels last month.

The general directorate of meteorology registered a temperature of 49.1 degrees Celsius (120.3 Fahrenheit) on July 20 in the southeastern town of Cizre.

The mercury is expected to reach 40 degrees Celsius in Antalya on Monday.

'Unbelievable'

The [defence ministry](#) released satellite images showing the extent of the damage with [forest areas](#) turned black and smoke still visible.

The opposition attacked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan late Saturday after a video showed him throwing tea to residents in [fire](#)-affected areas.



Agriculture and Forestry Minister Bekir Pakdemirli said 111 forest fires were under control, while five blazes continued in the holiday regions of Antalya and Mugla.

Another video also shows him throwing tea to people on the side of the road from a bus.

"Tea! It's unbelievable. Those who lose their shame lose their heart too," main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) spokesman Faik Oztrak tweeted.

The government has also been criticised over the lack of firefighting planes, with Turkey forced to accept help from Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia and Ukraine.

"If we don't have planes or helicopters, we must buy them," Bodrum mayor Aras of the CHP said in a video shared on Twitter.

Erdogan insisted Saturday that Turkey had "the strongest infrastructure in the region to fight forest fires" as he promised financial support for those affected.

Experts warn that climate change will wreak further damage in Turkey, causing more fires and other disasters if necessary measures to tackle the problem are not taken.

According to European Union figures, Turkey has been hit by 133 wildfires in 2021 so far compared with an average of 43 by this point in the years between 2008 and 2020.

Last month six people were killed after heavy rain caused flooding and landslides in northeastern Turkey.

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