# Massive Wildfires Ravage Athens, Greek Emergency Alerts Issued



Two significant wildfires are burning near Athens, Greece, authorities announced on Sunday. Emergency alerts were sent for some residents to evacuate and others to remain indoors and close their windows to avoid smoke inhalation.

The first fire started in the early afternoon southeast of Athens, burning at least four homes and several cars with no reported casualties by 6 PM. This blaze is nearing the port of Lavrio, about 37 miles southeast of Athens, and threatens a small forest near Cape Sounio.

A second fire ignited later in the day north of Athens, affecting the suburb of Stamata. This fire is advancing up Mount Penteli, a 3,600-foot mountain encircling the capital area.

A total of 230 firefighters, assisted by 17 planes and 12 helicopters, are engaged in efforts to control both fires, although aerial operations are restricted to daytime. The combination of hot, dry weather and strong winds has facilitated the spread of the fires. Temperatures in the low 30s Celsius are expected to rise further on Monday and Tuesday.

Wildfires have become increasingly common in the Mediterranean, with both Greece and Turkey experiencing significant fires earlier this month.