# Severe Heatwaves Grip California and Spain, Posing Health and Wildfire Threats



### Severe Heatwaves Hit California and Spain

#### California

Officials have raised alarms about an extreme, long-duration heatwave posing significant health and wildfire risks across California. The heatwave, starting July 1, 2024, will continue through July 11, particularly affecting Northern and Central California with triple-digit temperatures. Death Valley could hit 129°F Sunday, potentially the hottest day on record. Inland Southern California will also face extreme heat, with deserts possibly reaching temperatures above 110°F.

Health and safety warnings have been issued by the National Weather Service, stressing the severe health risks of prolonged exposure to such extreme temperatures. There are concerns about power outages due to increased electricity demand, and the ongoing heatwave has also sparked new wildfires, leading to evacuations in various areas. Meteorologists have advised residents to stay indoors, stay hydrated, and take necessary precautions.

#### Spain

Spain is also grappling with a severe heatwave, with temperatures expected to reach 40°C in some regions. The Spanish State Meteorological Agency has issued extreme heat alerts for Cadiz, Cordoba, Huelva, Jaen, Seville, and Badajoz. Temperatures in Cordoba and Seville are forecasted to hit 39°C, with other regions experiencing similarly high temperatures.

Copernicus, the EU's climate service, indicates that there is up to a 70% chance that this summer will rank among the top 20% hottest on record for Spain. Spaniards have been warned to stay hydrated and to monitor heat warnings closely. Last year was globally the hottest year on record, and Spain’s hottest year remains 2022, which saw around 11,300 heat-related fatalities.

Both California and Spain are experiencing critical heat conditions with significant health, safety, and wildfire implications.