# Escalating Wildfires and Heatwave Crisis Grip Greece



### Wildfires Fuel Crisis Across Greece Amid Heatwave

Authorities in Greece are contending with a series of wildfires exacerbated by extreme weather conditions and potential arson. The Civil Protection Minister, Vassilis Kikilias, confirmed that investigations are ongoing to determine if recent fires near Athens were deliberately set. A spokesperson from the Greek fire service highlighted the challenge, stating that new fires are emerging nearly every 10 minutes.

In Koropi, located 30 kilometers south of Athens, a storage facility and at least one home were damaged, while flames extended into a boat dry dock and across fields of dry grass and olive trees. Residents from two villages were evacuated as a precaution.

Meanwhile, the ongoing heatwave has claimed the lives of five tourists on the Greek islands over the past few weeks. The search continues for a missing American tourist, Albert Calibet, 59, last seen hiking on Amorgos island. Two French women, aged 73 and 64, are also missing on the island of Sikinos, adding to the already burgeoning crisis.

Extreme temperatures, reaching as high as 40 degrees Celsius, have contributed to the spate of incidents. In addition to the fatalities on Amorgos, hikers were found dead on the islands of Crete and Samos. The Greek fire service remains vigilant, combating fires across the country with the aid of fire-fighting aircraft.

The UK Foreign Office has issued advice for tourists in Greece, emphasizing caution in wooded areas and urging against lighting barbecues. Authorities continue to prepare for more wildfires over the summer, as strong winds and dry conditions persist.

This series of events underscores the severe impact of escalating temperatures across Europe, contributing to more frequent and intense wildfires and heat-related deaths.