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Information bulletin No. 2

Greece: Wildfires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Date of issue: 25 July 2018	
Date of disaster: 23 July 2018 (ongoing)	Point of contact: Marco Vargas, Disaster Management Delegate IFRC Country Office Greece Phone: +30 698 462 8190; email: marco.vargas@ifrc.org
Host National Society: Hellenic Red Cross (HRC)	

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

Following the previous update of the disastrous fires that have been raging since 23 July, the latest official figures are as follows:¹ the number of deaths has risen, and the number now stands at 81. Adults injured are 164, of whom 71 remain hospitalised and 10 are intubated. 23 children have required medical care and 11 of them have been hospitalised with minor injuries.

The search for missing persons is being carried out by foot patrols, consisting of 130 officers of the armed forces and fire department, in the areas of Neos Voutzas, Mati and Rafina. So far, numerous calls have been made to the fire brigades for missing persons' records. Since the process of identification of the bodies is in progress, some missing persons might be among the bodies that have not yet been identified, as well as among those who have returned to their relatives without informing the competent authorities.



Properties, houses and cars have been severely damaged. Photo Credit: HRC National Disaster Response Team (NDRT)

The following major fires that are still active:

1. In the area of Air in the Gerania Mountains, the fire is spreading in the mountain. Its extinguishment is being carried out by 284 firefighters with 114 vehicles and on foot, 13 vehicles of local authorities, 10 tank trucks and 5 project machines. 6 helicopters and 4 aircraft are providing support from the air.
2. In the Kallitexnoupoli area of Rafina - Pikermi in Attica, there are 286 firefighters with 96 vehicles, 12 volunteer fire trucks with 25 volunteers, and 1 helicopter.

Based on a damage assessment² that Infrastructure Ministry engineers began recording on 24 July, in East Attica, 234 houses are partly damaged, and 211 are completely destroyed by the fires. In Western Attica, so far 139 houses have been identified to be severely affected. The assessment will continue until the end of the week.

The government announced that support would be provided to the victims, to address the immediate needs of affected municipalities and their citizens. The municipalities of Rafina and Nea Makri are registering people with

¹ <https://www.civilprotection.gr/el/avaθnμoσiεuσn-εvnyέpωσnς-TOY-πTUPoσβEσTIKOY-σώMaTOς-σxETIKά-ME-TIς-θaσιKές-πTYPKavιές-THς-25072018>
<https://twitter.com/pyrosvestiki>

<http://www.in.gr/2018/07/25/greece/stous-81-oi-nekroi-oi-pyrosvestes-entopizoun-sorous-sta-kamena-spitia/>

² <http://www.efsyn.gr/arthro/ti-deihnei-i-proti-aytopsia-sta-ktiria-tis-anatolikis-attikis>

the social services. These municipalities have also organised points for collecting relief donations (food, water, diapers, etc.), and are distributing those items to affected people. NGOs are supporting through bringing food and water, providing medical and psychosocial support (PSS) services, and supporting the Health Centre of Rafina and Nea Makri. A shelter referral point has been set up for the affected populations of Nea Makri borough. Rafina municipality is referring affected people to the St. Andrew Recreational Camp, which is being used as a temporary shelter, with a capacity of 400 persons, although only 55 persons registered earlier on 25 July. The shelter in Rafina sports hall is now closed.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Up to now, 75 people have been reached by the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) through first aid, Restoring Family Links (RFL), primary health care, as well as Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Psychosocial Support (PSS).

First-aid hotspots set up by the Samaritan volunteers of the HRC have continued to be active. The Emergency Health Unit has been deployed since Tuesday, as well as the Emergency Psychosocial Support Unit. The Mobile Health Unit (MHU) was deployed to offer medical services in front of the municipality of Rafina. Spanish Red Cross is supporting the HRC with coordination on the MHU. Starting from 26 July, the Emergency Health Unit will be mobile in the residential areas since it is reported that some people staying in their homes in fear of theft. Health issues addressed have included minor burns, eye irritation and minor muscular/skeleton injuries. People have also been assisted through PFA to help cope with the loss of their loved ones, livelihoods and property. RFL services have been provided with support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). RFL established a direct line of communication with the fire department on 25 June, because fire service have been appointed as focal point for missing persons.



First aid and primary health care services being provided. Photo Credit: HRC

On 24 July, to carry out a needs assessment, the HRC deployed its National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), consisting of a team leader and focal points for Health, PSS, Protection, RFL, Community Engagement and Accountability as well as Disaster Management. The assessment is ongoing, but several factors have inhibited a comprehensive understanding of the damage and needs, including that people are difficult to reach.

HRC, supported by the IFRC team in Athens, is currently preparing a response plan and will apply to the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to complement the assistance provided by the government. Cash assistance is being considered, together with RFL and PSS. Consideration is also given to launching an Emergency Appeal.

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Click [here](#) to return to the title page

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.

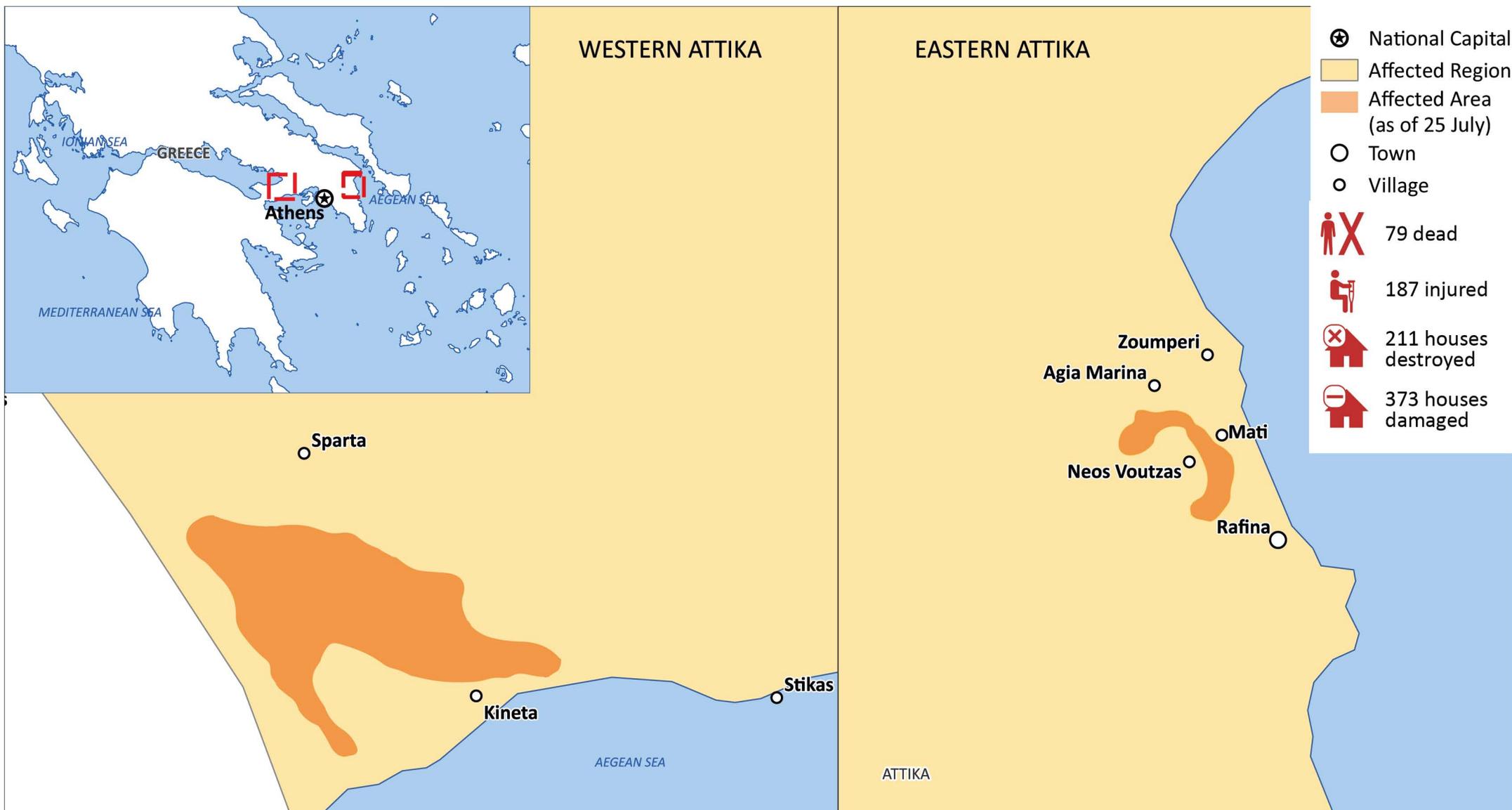


Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.



Greece, Forest Fires in Attika: Information Bulletin

25 July 2018



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