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Information bulletin no. 1 France: Forest fires



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Date of disaster:
24- 25 July 2017

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Host National Society: French Red Cross

Other partner organizations involved in the operation: local authorities and firefighters

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

The situation

On the night of 25 July 2017, around 12,000 people have been evacuated in **southern France** after **wildfires** broke out near Bormes-les-Mimosas, in the country's Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.

About 3,000 of the evacuees were holidaymakers on campsites, some of whom ended up spending the night on the beach, while the residents were sheltered in local schools or municipal hall.

The blazes had devoured about **4,000 hectares of land along the Mediterranean coast, in the mountainous interior and on the island of Corsica**. Overall, more than 4,000 firefighters and troops backed by water bombers have been trying to extinguish the flames. At least 12 firefighters have been injured and 15 police officers affected by smoke inhalation.

EU Civil Protection has announced support to France (Italy aerial firefighting plane within their EU buffer capacity).

This year, an increasing number of wildfires has been seen across the Mediterranean regions of Europe due to climate change and increasing weather risk conditions among other factors. In addition to France, Europe faced severe fires in Croatia, Italy, Montenegro, Portugal or Spain over the past weeks.



Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The **French Red Cross (FRC)** is providing **emergency shelters for the night, reception centers to rest during daytime, psychosocial support**, and **distributing water**. The national operational center is ready to open in case the situation should get worse. Technical operational experts are ready to join the affected areas to provide the local branches with support. The logistic base, located in the department of Gard, is on alert.

The volunteers of the French Red Cross are working hand in hand with the public authorities to provide support to the population and the fire workers. Here is a short inside of their action.

Alpes-Maritimes:

- the inhabitants of *Carros* had to leave their houses as a precautionary measure. The FRC activated an emergency shelter (accommodation center for emergencies) and distributed water. 11 people were provided with assistance. The shelter closed Tuesday, but volunteers are still in place to provide psychosocial support and information to the inhabitants.
- *Castagnier*: volunteers distributed water and opened a reception centre (CAI – centre d'accueil pour impliqués), providing psychosocial support to those in need. In total, in both places, 37 volunteers were engaged in the activities indicated above.

Gard

- *Nîmes*: a reception center was opened for the evening (17h - 20h) with the engagement of 10 volunteers.

Var:

- In response to the fire around *Ramatuelle et La Croix-Valmer*, the volunteers of the FRC were put on alert. Assessments of the situation were conducted, however, no action was finally required.

Vaucluse:

- The inhabitants of *Mirabeau* had to evacuate their houses. An accommodation center for emergencies was activated by volunteers of the FRC for the night from 24 to 25 July. 30 persons have been accommodated in the center, which is still open. 8 volunteers from the affected area and the neighbouring Bouches-du-Rhône were involved.

The situation remains risky in the affected areas according to the weather forecast (strong winds expected), therefore the IFRC Regional Office for Europe is in continuous contact with the affected National Society to monitor the developments.

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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 (NGOs) 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**.

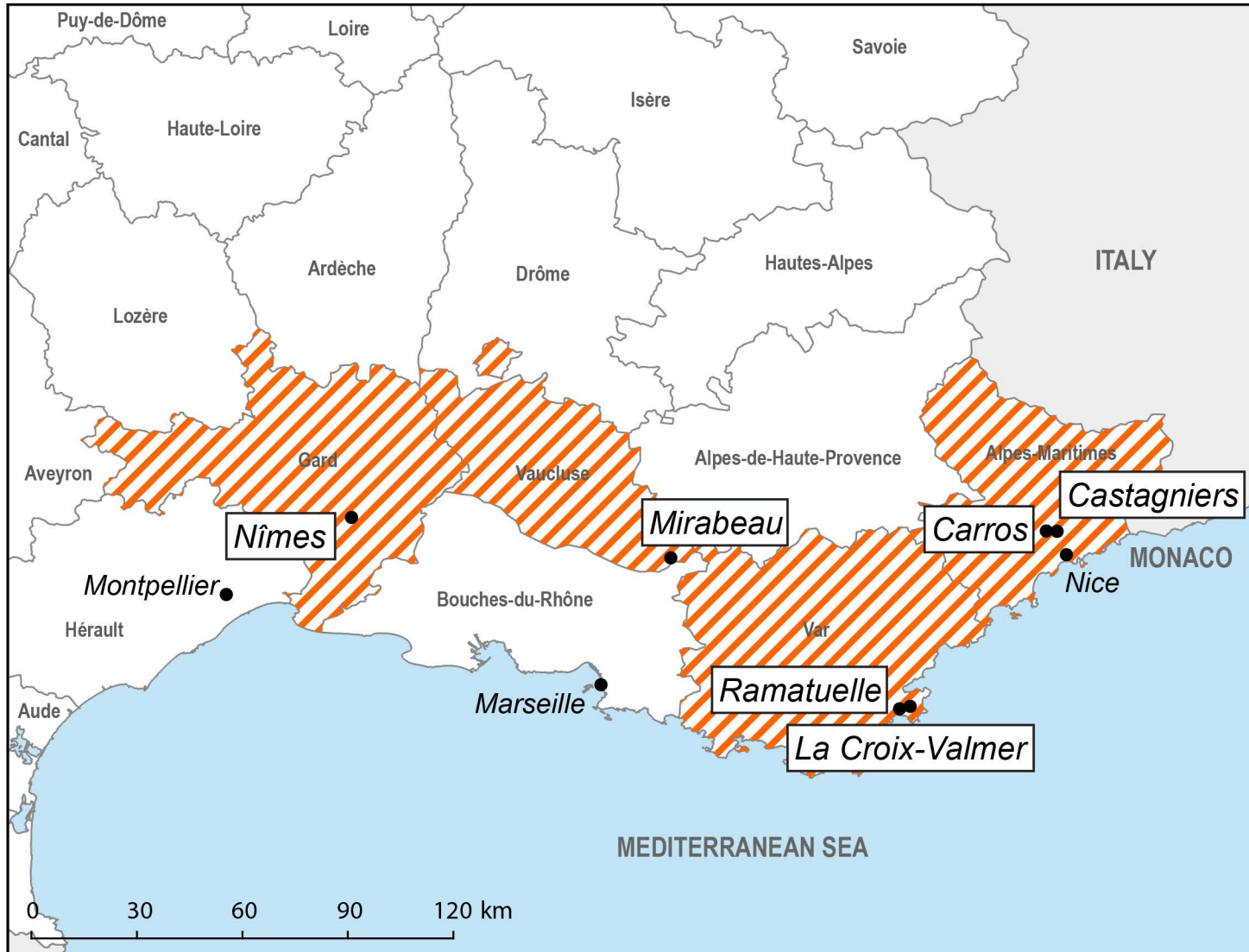
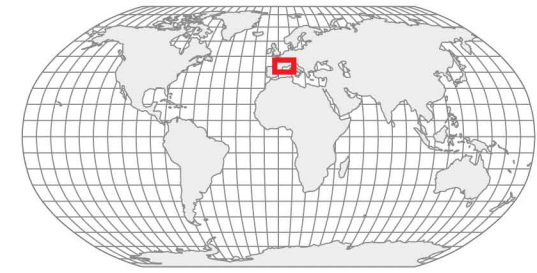


International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

FRANCE: FOREST FIRES

Information Bulletin

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