

Australia on Fire

Australia is facing the most severe forest fire crisis in its history, shocking the people of Australia and the whole world, with at least 25 people dying, more than 2,000 houses destroyed, and over a billion animals killed. So where do the fires come from?

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In summer in Australia, the weather is very dry and hot, so forest fires are common – people here call it the "forest fire season". Fires are often caused by lightning strikes in dry forests. But this year, Australia is experiencing a severe drought and prolonged heat, with many places exceeding 40 degrees Celsius for sustained periods, plus strong winds that are contributing to spreading the fires quickly across large areas. With global warming and climate change, many environmental experts have warned that disasters, such as forest fires and floods, will become more unpredictable, more dangerous, and more severe.

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Not only the Australian government and firefighters are dedicated to saving the burning forests, but also the people of many other countries. Online communities have been raising funds to support the victims and firefighters in Australia in the hope of bringing the disaster to an end.

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Australia's wildfire seasons are getting worse. Why?

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What most commonly starts wildfires?

We made this video on January 7th, 2020. Have more people and animals died since then?