

Calif.'s longer, hotter summers spark deadly, destructive fire season

By Cheri Carlson, Ventura County Star

California wildfires tore through mountains and foothills and into neighborhoods this week as record-breaking heat combined with increasingly dry conditions in the Golden State.

On Friday, fires burned out of control, stretching resources thin in areas and forcing thousands to leave their homes.

"We have a number of big destructive wildfires burning in very different parts of the state," said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA. "There's a lot going on right now in a very active fire season."

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