

Numerous Wildfires in Canada Displace 7,000 People



Edmonton, May 27 (RHC)-- Numerous wildfires in Canada have forced some 7,000 people to evacuate their homes and businesses, officials say.

Seventy wildfires broke out in Canada's Alberta province, 55 of which sparked on Sunday, not only threaten homes and businesses on their path but oil refineries in the region, officials said on Tuesday.

More than 1,600 firefighters have been dispatched to battle the raging flames. "It's going to take time for our fire fighters to get in there and get the fire under control," said an Alberta fire official.

Twenty blazes have been described as "out of control," making Canada consider calling in help from the United States and Mexico. Fire has spread to within 20 kilometers of homes or oil facilities, said Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Ministe Oneil Carlier.

Nearly 2,000 workers from the Cenovus Oil Company and Canadian Natural Resources Limited in the Cold Lake region, as well as some 4,700 residents of the Wabasca hamlet have been evacuated from the threatened areas.

According to officials, government evacuation centers have been set up for displaced people. The likely cause of the wildfires might be the "warm and dry" weather in the western Canadian province.

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