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Major wildfire finally under control on Cyprus



Authorities in Cyprus on Monday announced that a deadly wildfire has been finally brought under full control.

The blaze, described by an official as the worst in the island country's history, torched an area of around 55 sq kilometers.

Greece, Israel, Italy and the UK were among the countries that sent help to deal with the situation.

The wildfires, which broke out on the east Mediterranean island on Saturday afternoon, were fanned by strong winds.

On his part, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades described the massive wildfire – in the foothills of the Troodos Mountains – as a tragedy.

In a tweet, he said it was "…the largest fire since 1974" – referring to the year Cyprus was illegal divided following a Turkish invasion.

He also pledged that the government would “provide immediate assistance to the victims” and their families.

EU Commission president Ursula von der Leyen also took to Twitter on the occasion, underlining, in Greek, that: “…I would like to express my sincere condolences over the death of the four young people in the unprecedented fires on Cyprus. The EU, from the very first moment, is in solidarity with Cyprus … Cyprus is not alone.”

