



The News

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by Noele Bouazouni-Prier

"We are experiencing an exceptionally difficult season", says Emmanuel Macron from the operational crisis management center, after more than 7,600 hectares have gone up in smoke in the south of Gironde. The Head of State announced backup arriving from Greece to help France fight the flames. Several Greek aircraft have arrived in France a few hours ago. Firefighters from Île-de-France are also going to Gironde to help.

These fires are developing because of the current temperatures. 11 departments in the southern half are under orange alert, from the Gironde to the Alpes-de-Haute-Provence via the Tarn. Peaks at 40 degrees are expected today from the plains of the South-West to Provence.

And motorists have to put up with the heat as well, as many are on the roads. This Friday, traffic is orange for departures and even red in the south-east. Traffic will then be very complicated all weekend.

An investigation has been opened after the tragedy that occurred in Cholet, where a 7-year-old child and his 24-year-old sister were killed during the July 14 fireworks last night. Seven people were also injured, one of which is in critical condition. The prosecutor mentions a fireworks shooting incident and the mayor of Cholet expresses his "great sadness in the face of a terrible tragedy". The fireworks company has been working for nearly thirty years with the city.

What if the peak of the seventh epidemic wave was behind us? The number of new positive cases dropped last night for the 4th day in a row. Île-de-France is the first region to have recorded a decrease in cases and the incidence rate began a descent two days earlier than in the rest of France.

And then the 13th stage of the *Tour de France* is taking place this afternoon with 192 kilometers between Le Bourg-d'Oisans and Saint-Étienne. Three climbs are on the program. The yellow jersey is still worn by Dane Jonas Vingegaard and Warren Barguil had to forfeit after testing positive for Covid.