



The News

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by Emma Phillips

730 hectares of land have been destroyed near Marseille after a car caught fire on the side of the motorway yesterday. The fire has also claimed around a dozen houses and 400 people have been evacuated from the area Les Pennes Mirabeau so far. In the meantime, residents of Marseille's 16th arrondissement that was under threat of fire yesterday have been told they are free to come out of their homes. The SNCF has announced that train services in the area today will be severely disrupted.

In the Hérault, more than 750 firefighters are still on duty and 700 hectares of vegetation have been destroyed in Castelnau-de-Guers. In the département of Aude, wildfire has burned around 2,000 hectares near Narbonne and more than a thousand firefighters are on site.

The Minister for the Ecological Transition, Agnès Pannier-Runacher has confirmed that this year's wildfires have been exacerbated by the recent drought and has said that the situation is cause for concern. Eighteen départements are in crisis mode as the summer gets underway and nearly 50 have already implemented water restrictions.

In other news, the Duplomb law was finally adopted during a tense final session yesterday before the summer in Assemblée Nationale. The bill has been touted as a "response" to farmer protests, although it contains several measures that have been slammed by environmentalists. These include the reintroduction of acetamiprid, a highly controversial pesticide.

And finally to football, and the French women's team will take on Wales at 9pm this evening in the second phase of the Women's Euro group stage in Switzerland. This could be a big step towards the quarter-finals after their 2-1 victory over England in the opening match of the tournament.