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# Wildfire in Molezuelas, Zamora becomes largest in Spain's recorded history, leaves three dead

By Reet Kaur Friday, August 15, 2025

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A wildfire that began near Molezuelas de la Carballeda (Zamora) at about 14:25 local time (12:25 UTC) on August 10, 2025, has burned between 36 500 and 39 700 hectares (90 200 to 98 100 acres) and spread into neighboring León. It is the largest single wildfire in Spain since official records began in 1968, with three people and extensive damage to homes, farmland, forest, and infrastructure.



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A rapidly spreading wildfire that began near Molezuelas de la Carballeda (Zamora) at about 14:25 LT on August 10, burned between 31 500–36 500 ha (77 800–90 200 acres) within a roughly 38 000 ha (93 900 acre) perimeter by August 15. It spread north into León and is now considered the largest single wildfire in Spain since records began in 1968.

The fire advanced rapidly across pine stands, shrubland, pasture, and agricultural fields under dry, windy conditions before lighter winds on August 14 slowed its spread. Authorities ordered evacuations for more than 30 villages, displacing about 7 800 people.

Three people have died as a result of the wildfire. Two volunteer firefighters were fatally injured during suppression operations in the province of León. A third person died from severe burns in Tres Cantos, near Madrid, while attempting to rescue animals during another fire linked to the broader wildfire crisis.

At least six individuals sustained serious injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation, and were treated in hospital facilities across Castilla y León. Emergency services also reported several minor injuries among evacuees and personnel.



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The wildfire destroyed an undetermined number of residential homes, agricultural buildings, and vehicles, particularly in the municipalities of Nogarejas and Castrocalbón. Extensive areas of infrastructure, including irrigation systems, power lines, and farm equipment, were damaged or lost.

The wildfire burned approximately 11 000 ha (27 200 acres) of agricultural land, including cereal fields, olive groves, and vineyards. In addition, more than 25 000 ha (61 800 acres) of native forest and Mediterranean scrubland were destroyed, primarily consisting of pine, oak, and low mountain vegetation. Irrigation networks, power lines, and farming infrastructure, including tractors, storage facilities, and fencing, were damaged or lost in multiple rural zones.

Multiple roads were closed across the affected region, including ZA-111, ZA-P-1510, and ZA-P-2454, as advancing fire fronts approached populated areas. The AVE high-speed rail service between Madrid and Galicia was suspended, and traffic was diverted on national routes A-52 and N-525.