

# Neighboring countries send aircraft to aid Greece with wildfires

July 24 (UPI) — Raging forest fires on the Greek island of Corfu forced authorities to evacuate more than 2,400 people Monday from 17 settlements, while rescue operations on Rhodes continued into a third day.

Civil protection forces were battling the flames with the help of firefighting aircraft and helicopters sent from as far away as Egypt.

The Corfu evacuation mounted by police, fire, coast guard and the Ionian regional government came as an out-of-control blaze that started Sunday afternoon threatened communities in the northeast of the island, Fire Marshal Vasilios Vathrakogiannis, of the National Coordination Center for Operations and Crisis Management, told a briefing.

Reinforcements were deployed from the mainland to help local firefighters tackle the blaze, along with four light aircraft and three helicopters. There have been no reports of damage, he added.

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