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Houston-area highways with the worst EMS wait times



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## Massive wildfire rages after becoming largest in California's history

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - California's biggest wildfire on record raged on Tuesday as hot and windy conditions challenged thousands of fire crews battling eight major blazes burning out of control across the state.

The Mendocino Complex grew to span 283,000 acres (114,526 hectares) on Monday when two wildfires merged at the southern tip of the Mendocino National Forest, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said. It is the largest of eight major fires burning out of control across California, prompting U.S. President Donald Trump to declare a "major disaster" in the state.

The size of the fire has surpassed that of last year's Thomas Fire, which burned 281,893 acres in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties when it destroyed more than 1,000 structures. The Mendocino Complex has burned 75 homes and forced thousands to be evacuated.

Temperatures could reach 110 degrees (43 Celsius) in Northern California over the next few days with gusty winds fanning the flames of the complex, a National Weather Service meteorologist said.

The 3,900 crews battling the Mendocino Complex on Monday were focusing on keeping flames from breaking through fire lines on a ridge above the foothill communities of Nice, Lucerne, Glen Haven, and Clearlake Oaks, said Tricia Austin, a spokeswoman for Cal Fire.

Elsewhere in California, evacuations were ordered for cabins in Cleveland National Forest canyons in Orange County on Monday afternoon after a blaze broke out and quickly spread to span 700 acres (283 hectares).

The Carr Fire - which has torched 164,413 acres in the scenic Shasta-Trinity region north of Sacramento since breaking out on July 23 - was 47 percent contained.

The Carr Fire has been blamed for seven deaths, including a 21-year-old Pacific Gas and Electric Company lineman Jay Ayeta, whom the company said on Sunday was killed in a vehicle crash as he worked with crews in dangerous terrain. "California wildfires are being magnified and made so much worse by the bad environmental laws which aren't allowing massive amount of readily available water to be properly



FILE PHOTO: A volunteer sprays water as a wildfire burns in the town of Rafina, near Athens, Greece, July 23, 2018. REUTERS/Costas Baltas/File Photo

utilized," Trump wrote on Twitter. A California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman declined to comment on Trump's tweet but said crews did not lack water to fight the flames.

Environmental activists and some politicians say the intensity of the state's wildfire season could be linked in part to climate change. forum on Saturday. In response to a question about a comment by White House economic

adviser Larry Kudlow that China's latest measures are "weak", Wang said: "Does he want China to take an even stronger response?"

## Tesla starts hiring for new \$2 billion Shanghai plant

BEIJING/SHANGHAI (Reuters) - Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) has started hiring for its new Shanghai factory, according to job postings on its website, just a month after the U.S. electric vehicle (EV) maker signed agreements with local authorities for the \$2 billion project. People walk past a showroom outside Tesla China headquarters at China Central Mall in Beijing, China July 11, 2018. REUTERS/Jason Lee

The automaker's website showed it is looking to fill 14 roles including architectural designer and senior finance manager. Most of the positions are senior in level and require at least six years' experience, the job descriptions showed. Tesla did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment. The 21st Century Herald newspaper, which reported the job postings on Tuesday, said Tesla began advertising the roles on

Sunday. Tesla last month signed agreements with Shanghai authorities to build its first factory outside the United States, which would double the size of the EV maker's global manufacturing. Chief Executive Elon Musk on an earnings call this month said the factory would cost around \$2 billion and that the EV maker planned to fund the project with local debt. Tesla has said it wants to produce the first cars at the plant about two years after construction begins, reaching as many as 500,000 vehicles a year about two to three years later.



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## Houston-area highways with the worst EMS wait times

Julian Gill

Crash victims may have to wait slightly longer than expected for an ambulance to arrive on four Houston-area highways, according to data released last month by personal finance site ValuePenguin.

The website used data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System to rank the top 50 most dangerous highways in the United States. Researchers also ranked those 50 highways using the median EMS wait time following a fatal accident.

The longest wait time among the 50 most dangerous highways was on State Road 105, which runs from Brenham through Conroe to the outskirts of Beaumont. The median wait time there was 30 minutes, compared to a national median of 10.8 minutes, according to the data. The next longest EMS wait time in Houston was the Texas portion of Interstate 10, where it took ambulances around 18 minutes to get to the scene of a fatal crash, the data shows.

Facebook user Jesus Tejada captured this footage of a bus crash off Interstate 10 in Alabama the morning of March 13, 2018. High school band students from Channelview ISD were on board the bus.

U.S. Highway 59 logged the third-longest delay among Houston highways at 15 minutes, while U.S. Highway 290 recorded a 13-minute median delay.



U.S. Highway 59 EMS wait-time rank: 17 out of 50  
Median wait time: 15 minutes

## Houston's Deep Gulf Energy sold for \$1.2 billion to Kosmos Energy

Houston's Deep Gulf Energy is being sold for more than \$1.2 billion to Dallas-based Kosmos Energy in a major Gulf of Mexico transaction. Kosmos, which operates almost exclusively in Africa and South America, is entering the Gulf in a big way with the move. The Connecticut-based private equity firm First Reserve is selling Deep Gulf after funding it from its inception in 2005.

First Reserve gets a nice return on its investment, while Kosmos seeks to balance its portfolio with more growth in the slowly rebounding, but politically stable, U.S. Gulf.

Kosmos Chairman and Chief Executive Andrew Inglis said Deep Gulf gives the growing company more diversification, exploration opportunities and a pipeline of quality development projects in the Gulf. Kosmos has doubled its oil and gas production in the last four years, and this deal should allow Kosmos to double again in the next

four years, he said.

"With many competitors leaving the Gulf of Mexico to chase onshore shale plays, a huge opportunity has opened in the basin," Inglis said. "The best deepwater assets can compete with the best of shale, and now is a good time to enter the Gulf of Mexico."

The deal would initially give Kosmos an additional 25,000 barrels a day of oil equivalent with the potential to grow production volumes much higher, he said. The sale is expected to close in September. Kosmos said it will pay \$925 million in cash and another \$300 million in its stock shares.



主播高白

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1986年至2009年任浙江衛視首席新聞主播，2010年至2015年任浙江衛視駐美國首席記者兼新華社駐休斯頓記者（2016年卸任）。

### 全球晨間直播上線

# 早安，休士頓

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主播高航

休士頓 Anya Tish Gallery 和舊金山 The Secondbedroom Gallery 代理畫家，休士頓大學（美國）繪畫系碩士，首都師範大學（中國）油畫、影視技術雙學士。曾任教休士頓大學繪畫基礎部，Art League Houston 美術中心。作品曾多次展覽於美國休士頓、達拉斯、洛杉磯等城市，中國北京、江蘇、上海、廣州等城市以及韓國。

美南國際電視15.3日前「電視廣播合為一體」全球直播上線，手機掃描二維碼就可24小時觀看該頻道，獲得廣大迴響。為服務早晨上班通勤觀眾，讓新聞播報更即時，美南國際電視STV15.3即將在6月18日全球直播晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」，新聞播報時間為上午7點至9點讓觀眾行車間也可以方便收聽，掌握國際和社區重大新聞資訊。美南國際電視15.3創下華人媒體創舉，將電視與廣播融為一體，帶給觀眾不同體驗。全球晨間新聞「早安，休士頓」將採用全新主播陣容，用專業新聞態度為社區觀眾帶來最即時多元的新聞報導。「早安，休士頓」囊括國際時事、社區動態、生活藝文資訊三大版塊，播報新聞同時也會穿插氣象和路況報導，觀眾可利用網站搜尋、微信連結或下載Apps方式，行車間連接到車載音響設備（數據機/藍芽設備），可收看及收聽該頻道。



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# Editor's Choice



Mil Mi-28 N military helicopters of the Berkuty aerobatic team perform during the Aviadarts competition, as part of the International Army Games 2018, outside Ryazan



People attend a protest on the 10th anniversary of Georgian Russian war in front of the building of Russian Federation Interests Section of the Embassy of Switzerland in Tbilisi



A man attends a protest on the 10th anniversary of Georgian Russian war in front of the building of Russian Federation Interests Section of the Embassy of Switzerland in Tbilisi



2018 European Championships - Mountain Bike, Men's Cross-Country - Cathkin Braes Mountain Bike Trails, Glasgow, Britain - August 7, 2018 - Anton Sintsov of Russia in action. REUTERS/Russell Cheyne TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Some garden gnomes, part of the several hundreds pieces collected since 2009 by Belgian Gilbert Rassart, are seen in the village of Avennes



Fernando Haddad, former Sao Paulo mayor and member of Workers' Party (PT), and Manuela D'Avila of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB) pose before a media conference in Sao Paulo



Men relax in the hot weather by the Marmara Sea in Istanbul



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits the Pyongyang Trolley Bus Factory and the Bus Repair Factory in Pyongyang

Dengue fever has been wiped out of Townsville, Australia, after anti-virus mosquitoes were released.

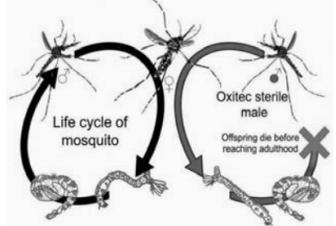
The experiment started in 2014, with scientists infecting mosquitoes with Wolbachia bacteria, which prevents the insects from spreading the virus.

Four million of the midge-like pests were released across Townsville over two years. Four years on, no cases of the infection have been recorded since in the Queensland city, which has around 167,800 residents, compared to 54 in the previous four years.

These mosquitoes then mated with wild species, causing them to pass on Wolbachia so their offspring also carried the bacteria.

This is the first time modified mosquitoes have wiped out such a virus across an entire city.

The dengue virus infects around 390 million people a year worldwide. Most cases cause just severe, flu-like symptoms, however, some sufferers develop life-threatening complications such as bleeding and reduced organ function.



Dengue fever has been wiped out of Townsville, Australia, after anti-virus mosquitoes were released in 2014. No cases of the infection have been recorded since.

Scheme could wipe out dengue in hard-hit countries

On the back of Townsville's success, 11 countries, including Brazil and Vietnam, are trialing Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes.

Professor Scott O'Neill, director of the program at Monash University, Melbourne, said: 'At a cost of around \$15 per person, the Townsville trial demonstrates the approach can be rolled out quickly, efficiently and cost effectively to help provide communities ongoing protection

Millions Of Anti-Virus Modified Mosquitoes Released

Deadly Dengue Fever Has Been Wiped Out Across An Entire City In Australia

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Anti-dengue mosquitoes were released in Townsville, Australia in 2014

No cases have been recorded in the Queensland city since the pests' release

This is compared to 54 dengue cases between 2010 and 2014

Four million mosquitoes were infected with Wolbachia bacteria over two years

Wolbachia bacteria prevents the insects from spreading the dengue virus

from mosquito-borne diseases.'

The programme aims to release Wolbachia mosquitoes in larger cities around the world with a target of reducing the cost to just \$1 per person.

Professor O'Neill added: 'Not only were communities accepting of the technology, but they also became active participants, with residents and local school students growing and releasing their own Wolbachia mosquitoes.'

'We believe our approach will be suitable for other cities, with appropriate local adaptation, and provides a framework for scaling-up our deployment, globally.'

The researchers add, however, other countries that are testing the modified mosquito roll out have higher rates of dengue than Australia and therefore the scheme may

not work as effectively.



Dengue fever has been wiped out of Townsville, Australia, after anti-virus mosquitoes were released in 2014. No cases of the infection have been recorded since.

Despite their concerns, the scientists add results appear positive so far, the New Scientist reported.

Dengue fever may be spread via sex This comes after research released last May suggested dengue fever may be passed on through sex.

Scientists discovered the dengue virus in the semen of a man more than a month after he fell ill while travelling in Thailand.

WHAT IS DENGUE FEVER? AND WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Dengue is a viral infection spread by mosquitoes.

In most people, the infection passes in around a week with no serious symptoms, however, it can be life-threatening.

Symptoms usually appear four-to-10 days after a person becomes infected and can include:

- Fever
• Severe headache
• Pain behind the eyes
• Muscle and joint pain
• Nausea and vomiting
• Widespread red rash

• Loss of appetite

These usually pass within a week.

In severe cases, people may suffer:

- Severe abdominal pain and bloating
• Persistent vomiting, containing blood
• Bleeding gums or hemorrhaging under the skin
• Difficulty breathing
• Drowsiness or loss of consciousness



• Cold, clammy skin

• Weak but fast pulse

There is no cure or specific treatment for dengue.

To ease symptoms, people should drink plenty of fluids and rest, as well as taking painkillers.

Dengue is not found in the UK but is in:

- Southeast Asia
• The Caribbean
• South and Central America
• Africa
• The Pacific Islands
• The Indian subcontinent
• Australia

People can reduce their risk of being bitten by dengue-carrying mosquitoes by using DEET insect repellent, wearing loose but protective clothing and sleeping under a mosquito net.

The virus lingering in the man's semen led researchers to believe the condition could be passed on during sex even after the other person has recovered.

The unnamed Italian man, who was in his 50s, was diagnosed with dengue fever last January. He was otherwise healthy but suffered from joint pain, fatigue and nausea.

The man was admitted to the National Institute for Infectious Diseases in Rome after feeling ill for nine days.

He recovered, with traces of the virus disappearing from his blood and urine after 23 days, however, the pathogen was still present in his semen after 37 days. All traces had disappeared by day 55. (Courtesy http://www.dailymail.co.uk)

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## Rouhani Open To Talks With U.S. As Iranian Economy Collapses In Face Of U.S. Sanctions

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani recently responded to President Trump's offer to get back to the negotiating table. In his address Monday, Rouhani said the Islamic Republic is open to negotiations if the U.S. is "sincere."

Rouhani's statement comes after President Trump said future talks with Iran will depend on if the country is willing to negotiate a new nuclear deal.

President Trump has also suggested the new negotiations could produce a strict and verifiable nuclear deal with Iran.

"So I believe in meeting — I would certainly meet with Iran if they wanted to meet," stated President Trump. "If we could work something out that's meaningful, not the waste of paper that the other deal was, I would certainly be willing to meet."

Meanwhile, hardliners in Tehran are opposed to the idea of talks with the U.S. despite the collapsing Iranian economy. The country's foreign minister dismissed the idea, saying the U.S. cannot be trusted.

### Iranian President Responds After Trump Resumes Sanctions



In this July 30, 2018, photo, an Iranian street money exchanger holds a U.S. banknote in downtown Tehran, Iran. As the Trump administration readies to re-impose sanctions on Iran that were lifted by the Obama administration under the nuclear deal, American allies fear greater regional instability. Sanctions on trade in Iranian metals and automobiles go back into effect Monday. The more significant sanctions - those on Iran's oil sector and central bank - go back into effect in November (Photo/AP)

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani struck a hard line Monday as the U.S.



U.S. President Donald Trump, left, on July 22, 2018, and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Feb. 6, 2018. (AP Photo)

restored some sanctions that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal, demanding compensation for decades of American "intervention" in the Islamic Republic.

While saying he had "no preconditions" for talks, Rouhani in a live television interview maintained that Iran can rely on China and Russia to help its oil and banking sectors as the U.S. ramps up sanctions in the coming months.

The U.S. resumed sanctions targeting Iran's automotive sector as well as gold and other key metals on Monday.

"If someone has knife in the hand and seeks talks, he should first put the knife in his pocket," Rouhani said.

A first set of U.S. sanctions that had been eased by the Obama administra-

tion under the landmark nuclear deal took effect again on Monday, following President Donald Trump's decision in May to withdraw from the accord. Renewed sanctions targeting Iran's oil industry and banking sector will resume on Nov. 4.

Rouhani fell back on the rhetoric of many of his predecessors by referencing the 1953 CIA-backed coup that overthrew Iran's elected prime minister and cemented the shah's rule.

"I have no pre-conditions" for negotiating with America "if the U.S. government is ready to negotiate about paying compensation to the Iranian nation from 1953 until now," Rouhani said. "The U.S. owes the Iranian nation for its intervention in Iran."

underway, the first time presidents of the two countries had spoken directly since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The uncertainty caused by the re-imposition of American sanctions has proven devastating for the Iranian economy, already weakened by decades of sanctions. Iran's rial now trades over double its government-set rate to the U.S. dollar. Sporadic protests have broken out across the country, something that Rouhani again blamed Monday on the U.S. (Courtesy <https://www.westernjournal.com>)

### Iran's president says he'll talk to Trump "right now"

Washington (CNN) Iranian President Hassan Rouhani issued a challenge to President Donald Trump on Monday, saying the Islamic Republic would welcome talks with the US "right now."

"I don't have preconditions. If the US government is willing, let's start right now," Rouhani said during an interview that aired on state television late Monday local time, just hours before the US renewed sanctions on Iran. "If there is sincerity, Iran has always welcomed dialogue and negotiations," Rouhani said.



Trump's national security adviser John Bolton, when asked about the offer by CNN's Jake Tapper, dismissed it as possible "propaganda."

"Let's see what really comes of it or whether it's just more propaganda," Bolton said, adding that Trump has been "consistent" that he would be willing to negotiate with regimes such as North Korea and Iran.

"If the Iranians are really willing to come and talk about all of their malign behavior in the region and around the world, I think they'd find the President willing to do it," Bolton said. (Courtesy <https://www.cnn.com>)

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