**Australia’s Military Aids in Wildfire Rescues**

**澳大利亚军方协助山火救援**

Tens of thousands of vacationers raced to flee seaside towns on Australia's east coast Thursday as fires burned across large areas.

周四，澳大利亚东部沿海地区大片地区发生火灾，导致当地海边度假城镇成千上万的度假者纷纷撤离。

Military ships and helicopters have begun rescuing thousands of people trapped by the fires.

军舰和军用直升机已前往营救仍然滞留的数以千计被大火所困的人群。

Fueled by hot weather and high winds, more than 200 fires are now burning across the southeastern states of New South Wales and Victoria.

借着当地的高温和狂风天气，200多起火灾燃遍了东南部的新南威尔士州和维多利亚州。

Long lines formed outside food stores and fuel stations near high-danger areas. Shelves were emptied of foods like bread and milk as local people and visitors sought supplies to either stay or leave.

高危地区附近的食品店和加油站外都排起了长队。不管是打算留下来的当地居民还是要离开的游客，都纷纷抢空了货架上的牛奶和面包等食物。

More than 50,000 people were reported without electricity. Some affected towns had no available drinking water.

据报道，已有超过5万人受断电困扰。甚至部分受影响城镇已经没有饮用水可用。

Evacuation urged

强令疏散

Officials urged evacuation of several towns on Australia's southeast coast, a popular area during the holiday season. The officials warned that extreme heat predicted for the weekend will fuel the fires' growth.

官方已在敦促澳大利亚东南沿海几个城镇的居民进行撤离。东南沿海是澳大利亚度假季最受欢迎的地区。当地官员还警告称，预计周末将出现极端高温天气并将加剧火灾的蔓延。

"The priority today is fighting fires and evacuating, getting people to safety," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters in Sydney.

澳大利亚总理斯科特·莫里森在悉尼接受采访时对记者说:“目前的首要任务是救火和疏散人群，将人们转移到安全的地方。”

The wildfires have kiiled eight people in the eastern states of New South Wales and Victoria since Monday. Eighteen other people are still missing, officials said Thursday.

自周一以来，澳大利亚森林大火已致东部的新南威尔士州和维多利亚州8人死亡。据周四官方公布，目前仍有18人失踪。

Also, a naval ship arrived at the southeastern coastal town of Mallacoota, where 4,000 residents and visitors have been waiting on a beach since Monday night. Naval officers said they would open registration for evacuation Thursday. The ship is expected to make two or three trips in the coming days, state officials said.

此外，一艘海军军舰抵达了东南沿海的马拉库塔镇，救助那里自周一晚就等待救援的4000多名当地居民和游客。据海军官员透露，他们将在周四开放撤离登记。州政官员称，这艘军舰预计将在未来几天进行两到三次航行。

‘It is hell on earth'

“这里简直是人间地狱”

Michelle Roberts owns a small restaurant in Mallacoota. She told Reuters reporters by phone, "It is hell on earth. It is the worst anybody's ever seen."

米歇尔·罗伯茨是马拉库塔镇一家小餐馆的老板。她在电话中告诉路透社记者:“这儿真的是人间地狱。(我觉得)这是人们经历过的最糟糕的事。”

Roberts hoped to get her 18-year-old daughter out on the ship to get away from the fires and thick smoke that continue to surround the town.

罗伯茨希望能把她18岁的女儿弄上船，让她远离一直笼罩着小镇的大火和浓烟。

Five military helicopters were on their way to the south coast to support firefighters' efforts and bring in supplies, the Australian Defense Force said. The aircraft will also be used to evacuate injured, old and young people.

澳大利亚国防军(Australian Defense Force)表示，已经派出五架军用直升机飞往南海岸，用以支持消防员的救援行动，并带去所需物资。这些直升机还将用于疏散伤员及滞留的男女老少。

A group of 39 firefighters from North America landed in Melbourne on Friday. Almost 100 U.S. and Canadian experts have traveled to Australia to help deal with the crisis.

周五，来自北美的39名消防员抵达墨尔本。近100名美国和加拿大专家前往澳大利亚协助应对此次危机。

State of emergency

应急状态

The New South Wales state government declared a state of emergency beginning Friday. The declaration gives officials powers to forcibly evacuate people and take control of services. Prime Minister Scott Morrison urged those waiting for help and those stuck in traffic "to be patient ... help will arrive."

新南威尔士州政府宣布从周五开始进入紧急状态。该公告赋予当地政府强制疏散民众和控制公共服务的权力。莫里森总理叮嘱那些等待救援的滞留人员“要耐心坚持……救援会到达的。”

Temperatures are expected to be above 40 degrees Celsius along the south coast Saturday. "It is going to be a very dangerous day. It's going to be a very difficult day," said NSW Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons.

周六，南部沿海的温度预计将超过40摄氏度。“这将是非常危险的一天。这将是非常艰难的一天。新南威尔士州乡村消防署委员谢恩·菲茨西蒙斯说。

The prime minister said the fires will burn for "many, many months ... unlike a flood, where the water will recede, in a fire like this, it goes on and it will continue to go on...until we can get some decent rain."

澳大利亚总理表示，大火将持续“很多很多个月……它不像洪水会退去，像这样的大火会一直持续……除非能有一场很大的大雨来浇灭它。”

Bushfires so far this season have destroyed more than 4 million hectares of bushland and more than 1,000 homes.

本季度到目前为止，山火已摧毁了400多万公顷的丛林和1000多座房屋。

I'm Caty Weaver.

卡蒂·韦弗报道。

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