



Our World

Week Beginning: Monday 14 September 2020



This Week in Our World...

This week the focus of **'Our World'** is the recent wildfires that are burning in America.

Approximately, one hundred wildfires are currently burning across Oregon, California and Washington in the United states of America.

Where are Oregon, California and Washington in the US in the world?

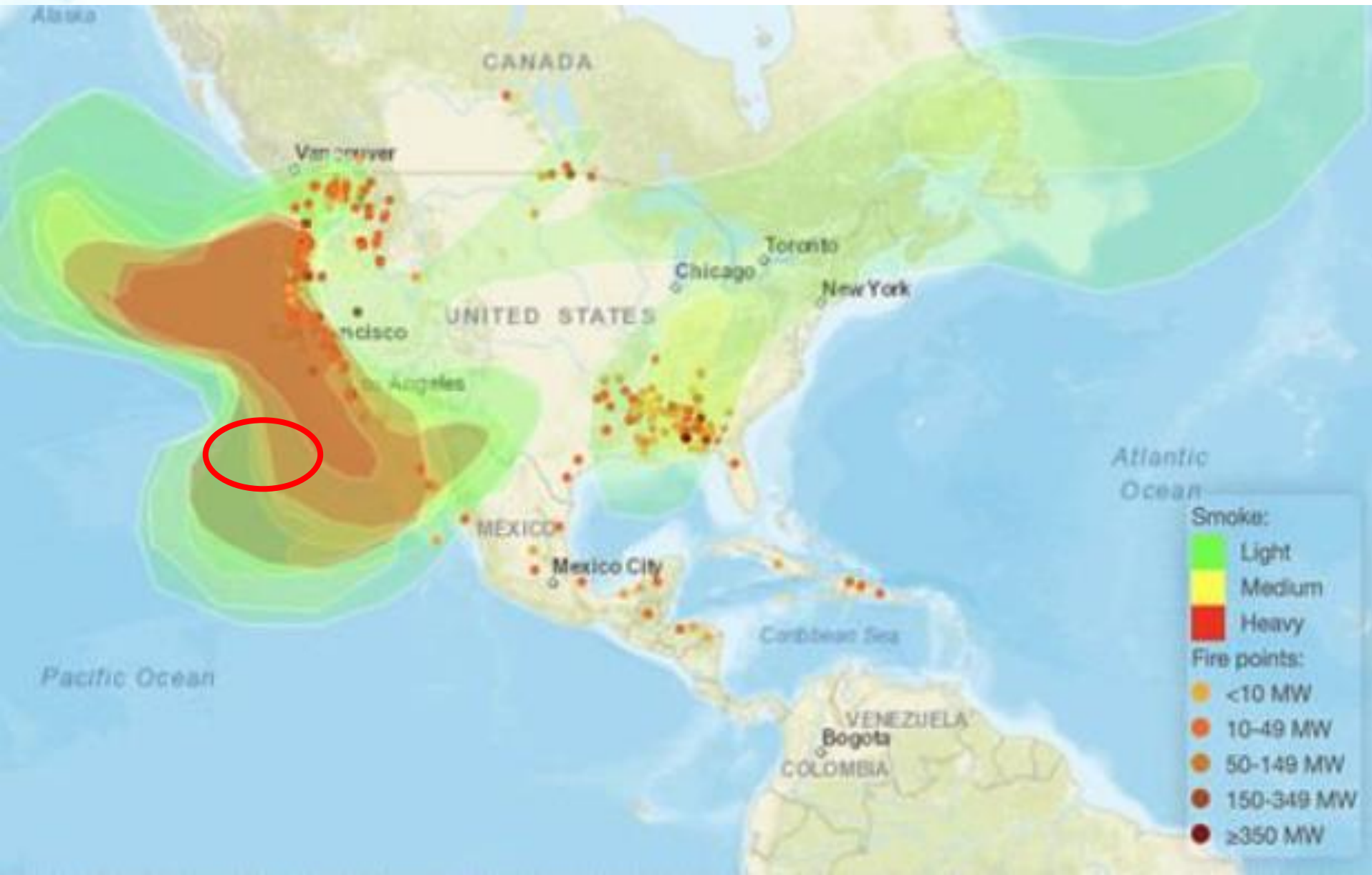


Where are Oregon, California and Washington in the US in the world?



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|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Netherlands | 10. Austria | 20. Ghana | 29. Liechtenstein |
| 2. Belgium | 11. Hungary | 21. Togo | 30. Montenegro |
| 3. Luxembourg | 12. Serbia | 22. Benin | 31. Kosovo |
| 4. Switzerland | 13. Moldova | 23. Cameroon | 32. Palestinian Territories |
| 5. Slovenia | 14. North Macedonia | 24. Equatorial Guinea | 33. St. Vincent & the Grenadines |
| 6. Croatia | 15. Albania | 25. Rwanda | |
| 7. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 16. Cyprus | 26. Cambodia | |
| 8. Czechia | 17. Lebanon | 27. Panama | |
| 9. Slovakia | 18. Guinea-Bissau | 28. Malawi | |

Where are the fires located?





The story so far...

Firefighters have been tackling the blazes in western America for about three weeks.

Millions of acres of land and thousands of homes have been destroyed.

The destruction has forced thousands of people to leave their homes and some have sadly lost their lives.

In Oregon, over the weekend, firefighters were trying to get 16 large fires under control.



What has caused the fires?

There are many reasons why the fires started, including lightning strikes.

However, experts have said due to climate change there are more extreme weather conditions. This does not affect how the wildfires start, but it does then help create the conditions for them to spread and become bigger. This is called a geographical process.



Geographical Processes

In recent weeks, Oregon, along with California and Washington, has seen extreme heatwaves, which sadly provides ideal conditions for wildfires to spread and to keep burning.

Strong winds during the Autumn season not only add to the drying out, but then spread embers and flames too, causing more fires to light.



embers

Embers (noun)

A small piece of burning or glowing coal or wood in a dying fire





Watch...



Clip 1 (CBBC Newsround)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/54138007>

Clip 2 (Express News)

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1333756/US-fires-map-wildfires-map-california-oregon-washington-latest-news>