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Climate change has made the record-breaking temperatures that roasted parts of Europe this summer at least 10 times more likely, scientists said Wednesday. “We found clear evidence of human influence on this summer’s record warmth, both in the overall summer temperatures and in the heatwave dubbed ‘Lucifer,’” said study co-author Geert Jan van Oldenborgh, a senior researcher at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute. “Climate change made the summer of 2017 at least 10 times more likely than it would have been during the early 1900s,” he said in a statement. What used to be once-in-a-century calamity, in other words, is now to be expected every decade.

And if the greenhouse gas emissions which drive global warming continue unabated, a summer like 2017 will become the new normal along Europe’s Mediterranean rim by mid-century, the researchers added. Scientists with World Weather Attribution, an international consortium focused on possible links between climate change and extreme weather, assessed the 2017 summer as a whole, as well as the Lucifer heatwave, which blasted southern Europe for three days in early August. Starting in June, unusually hot weather rolled across France, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. On July 13, Madrid hit 40.6 Celsius, tying a record set in 2012. Early August saw an intense heatwave strike southeastern Europe, with temperatures topping 40° C for several days running in parts of Italy and the Balkans. Daytime and night-time records were broken in France ▪ Nimes hit 41.6° C ▪ as well as in Corsica and Croatia.