

2 Freeze to Death in Moscow Region Forest

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Volunteers have found the bodies of 4-year-old Yelizaveta Fomkina and her mentally handicapped aunt Maria who got lost in a Moscow region forest 10 days ago, news reports said Thursday.

The two disappeared Sept. 13 after they took their dog for a stroll in the Orekhovo-Zuyevo district, RIA-Novosti reported. The dog returned alone "several days later" and led the search party to one of the bodies Wednesday, Lifenews.ru said.

Forensic experts ruled that the girl died of hypothermia Monday, a spokeswoman for the Investigative Committee said. She did not say what killed Maria Fomkina, but earlier reports said no traces of violence were found.

A volunteer who spoke on condition of anonymity told RIA-Novosti that the victims could have been rescued if police and the Emergency Situations Ministry had deployed more men for the search operation.

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