

Primorye's Most Destructive Typhoon in 40 Years Meets Instagram

September 05, 2016



Yuri Smityuk / TASS

Typhoon Lionrock, which slammed into Russia's Primorye Region on Aug. 29, was the area's most destructive storm in 40 years, according to officials. Lionrock is estimated to have caused twice as much damage as Typhoon Judy, which hit Primorye in 1989. Lionrock flooded more than 3,260 homes, 13 municipal buildings, and approximately 30.5 km of roads. At least 19 populated areas still have no communication lines with the outside world, 51 towns are still without power, and roughly a thousand people have been evacuated from flooded areas. Oleg Fediura, the head of the regional branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry, even drowned while trying to rescue people on Friday, Sept. 2.

On Instagram, locals in Primorye have been sharing stunning images and videos from on the ground. The Moscow Times shares some of the most remarkable footage.

Embed:



A photo posted by Dima_RC0LAD (@rc0lad) on Aug 31, 2016 at 1:09pm PDT

On Sept. 4, the newspaper Novaya Gazeta reported that Emergency Situations Minister Vladimir Puchkov might lose his job, in light of the government's systematic underestimation of forest fires, the death of five rescue workers in a coal mine explosion in February, the crash of a firefighting plane in the Irkutsk region in July, and most recently Oleg Fediura's drowning in Primorye. The Kremlin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, quickly dismissed rumors about Puchkov's ouster as “speculation.”

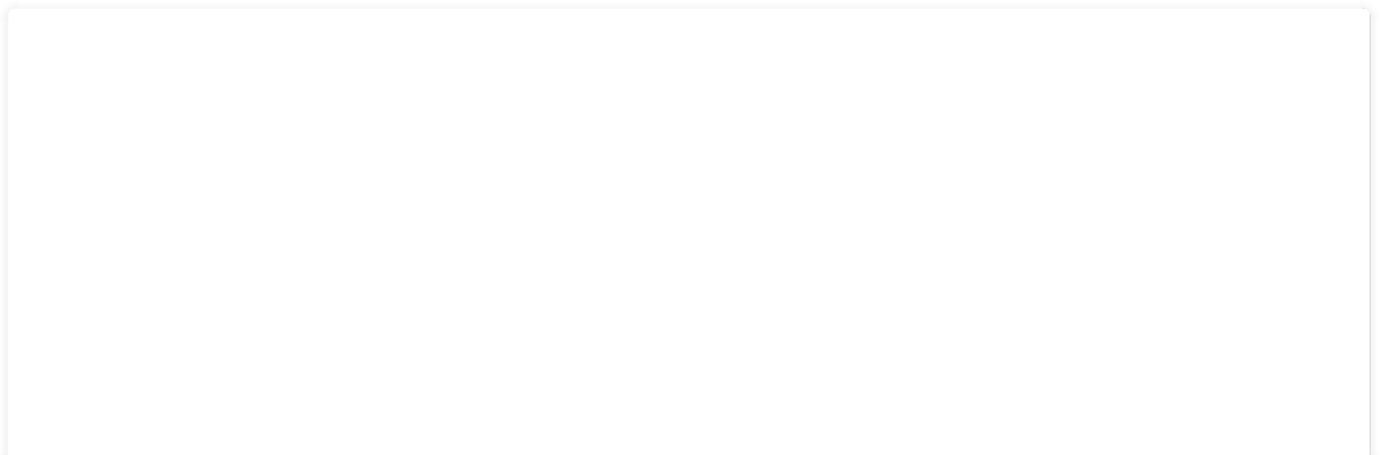
Embed:



A photo posted by Алина Сергеевна (alinalis) on Sep 2, 2016 at 6:12am PDT

On Sept. 5, the Emergency Situations Ministry dispatched another 250 rescue workers to Primorye, pulling cadets and staff from Krasnoyarsk and Moscow. “They are coming equipped with the required watercraft and gear to carry out the necessary work,” a government spokesperson told the news agency TASS.

Embed:

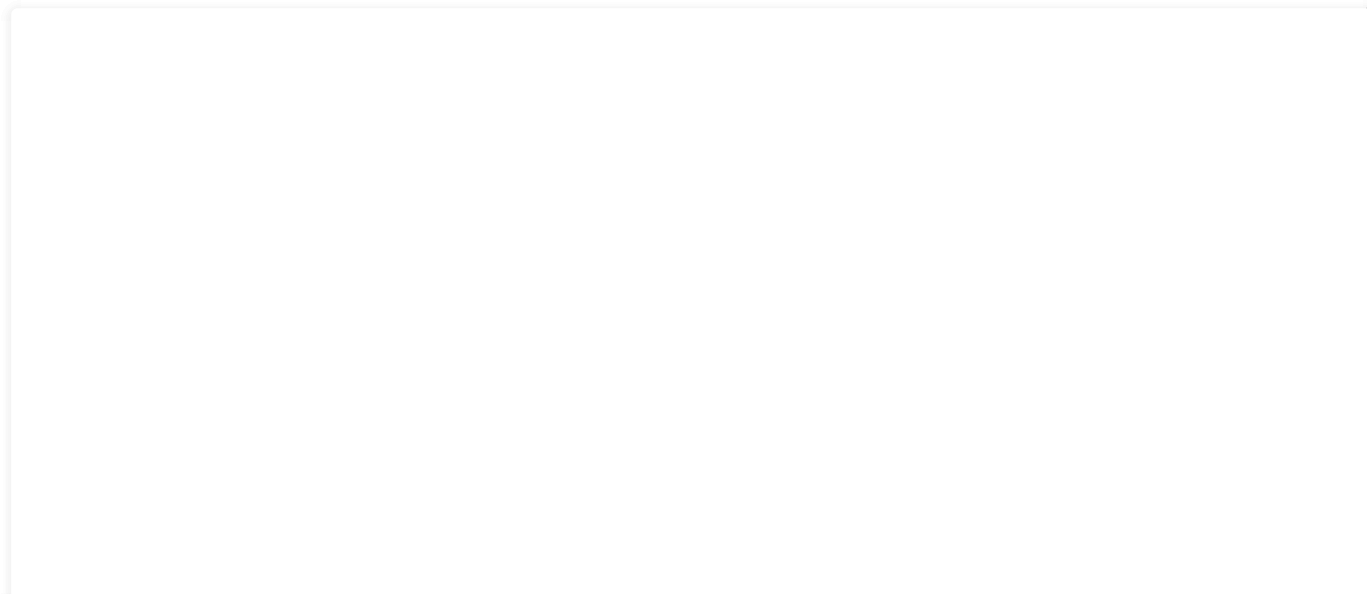




A photo posted by Юрий Клочков (@klochkov_y) on Sep 3, 2016 at 5:18am PDT

Typhoon Lionrock drenched the region in heavy rains for three days, from Aug. 29 to Aug. 31. In those days, rainfall approached what the region usually gets in three months. Because of flooding, the region has been declared a disaster area.

Embed:





A photo posted by Школа-студия Владивосток (@nails_professional_school) on Aug 31, 2016 at 9:44pm PDT

Meanwhile, a new storm is now drenching Primorye, and more flooding is expected in areas near rivers throughout the region. Heavy rains are forecast to last until Sept. 6.

Embed:



A photo posted by N A D E Z H D A (@dro_nv) on Sep 3, 2016 at 1:37am PDT

Russia's federal government is reportedly considering sending 718 million rubles (\$11 million) in aid to help the Primorye region recover from the typhoon's damage. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev told reporters on Sept. 5 that officials are currently focused on minimizing the effects of the storm and organizing assistance to the victims as quickly as possible.

Embed:



A photo posted by Dima_RC0LAD (@rc0lad) on Sep 2, 2016 at 4:38am PDT

According to the news agency TASS, emergency officials have received several complaints from locals in flooded areas claiming that stores have suddenly raised prices on basic foods, including bread. There have been reports of profiteering in nearly a dozen towns. The region's governor, Vladimir Miklushevsky, has vowed to prosecute businesses for such practices.

Embed:



A video posted by Александр (@vishnyak25rus) on Sep 1, 2016 at 4:46am PDT

According to Anatoly Tsygankov, the deputy director of the Situation Center at Russia's Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring, the country hasn't yet “learned to hide” from major storms. Tsygankov says officials in the U.S., for instance, have built bunkers to protect people from flooding. “We cannot counter heavy rainfall: we cannot redirect it to the side, and it is impossible to hide from heavy rains,” he says.

Embed:



A video posted by Aparina Kristina (@kris_barista) on Sep 2, 2016 at 12:42pm PDT

Original url: <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2016/09/05/typhoon-in-russias-far-east-a55214>