Russia Sends Aircraft to Battle Israeli Wildfires

November 25, 2016

Pavel Adzhigildaev / Wikicommons

Two Russian planes have been sent to Israel in a bid to help fight◻wildfires ravaging the country.

The pair of Beriev BE-200 amphibious aircraft landed in Tel Aviv◻airport early Friday morning, Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry◻said in a statement.

The aircraft will be working closely with Israeli authorities to◻extinguish the flames, a ministry spokesperson said.

Some 60,000 people have evacuated their homes in the Israeli city◻of Haifa, [the Times of Israel reported Thursday.](#) Flames are also◻threatening homes near Jerusalem and in the West Bank.

The blazes have been blamed on a two-month drought in the country,◻despite reports

suggesting that some fires had been "lit☒deliberately" and could be "politically motivated."

The Beriev BE–200 can hold 12,000 liters of water. Production of☒the craft began in 2003.

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