The Moscow Times
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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Black Snow Buries Russian Coal Region, Sparks Criminal Case

February 25, 2019



"Help us," the message reads. **kamenkseni / Instagram**

Russian police have opened a criminal case into air pollution in the Siberian coal-mining region of Kemerovo, weeks after black snow first covered towns in the area.

Dark snow descended on the cities of Prokopyevsk, Kiselyovsk and Leninsk-Kuznetsky in mid-February, a phenomenon that has been attributed to rising coal output. Authorities in another Kemerovo town were reprimanded in December for using white paint to cover up ash- and soot-covered snow.

The regional police department announced Monday that it had opened a criminal case into air pollution against an unnamed factory after a complaint filed by a resident of Kiselyovsk. The charges carry a fine of up to 80,000 rubles ($1,226) and suspension from holding office for up to 5 years.

Tests revealed more than double the permissible amount of pollutants in the air, the Kemerovo region Interior Ministry department said.

Here is a selection of photos posted by social media users:

Black snow engulfs cars on the street.

Embed:

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Новости Новокузнецка (@novosti_nvkz) 12 Фев 2019 в 3:51 PST

This car parked on the side of the street isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

Embed:



Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Andrey Timofeev (@andreitimofeeff) 13 Мар 2018 в 6:22 PDT

"Our white snow," reads the writing in the snow that is not at all white.

Embed:



Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Киселевск 42 (@kiselevsk42) 10 Фев 2019 в 8:03 PST

A thick spread of black snow, marked with the date.

Embed:



Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

Публикация от Маникюр Педикюр Кемерово (@nails_likakem) 3 Фев 2019 в 6:02 PST

When coated with snow, tar streets and the sidewalk blend into each other.

Embed:

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