

Russia's Far East Braces for Fresh Wildfires

April 22, 2019



Alexei Pavlishak / TASS

A region in Russia's Far East has bolstered its capabilities to combat wildfires after the first wave injured dozens and left hundreds more homeless.

Wildfires that tore through Zabaikalsky region [injured](#) at least 34 people, four of them critically, and [left](#) more than 400 people homeless. Authorities estimate the blaze, which was swept in from Mongolia by high winds, caused 280 million rubles (\$4.4 million) in damage.

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“A mass group of interoperable forces is ready to put out any possible fires,” the regional Emergency Situations Ministry office [announced](#) on Monday.

It issued a [warning](#) that windy conditions would remain on Monday and Tuesday, likely to

reach up to 23 meters per second.

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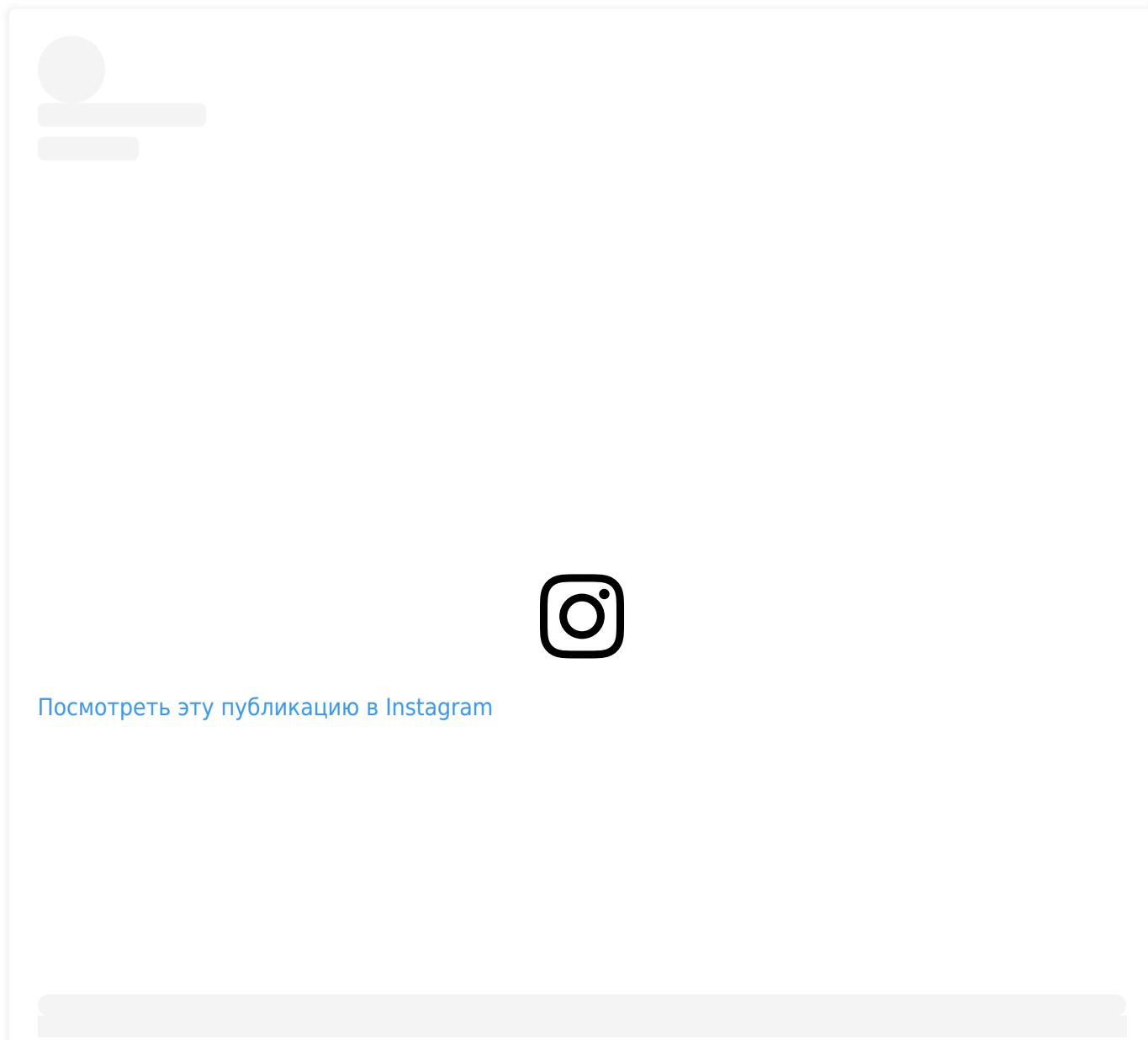
Во Владивостоке черный дым окутал объект культурного наследия федерального значения <https://t.co/AB8moyNtDK> [pic.twitter.com/HYJuAbre7X](https://t.co/HYJuAbre7X)

— Виталий С. (@vits2014) [22 апреля 2019 г.](#)

The ministry urged residents to avoid starting fires or burning garbage or dry leaves as part of the region-wide emergency situation.

April and May are [considered](#) wildfire season in Siberia and the Russian Far East.

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