

Venomous Vipers Infest Flood-Struck Siberian Region

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A southeast Siberian region recovering from weeks of deadly flooding has been hit by another plague: venomous vipers.

Twenty-five people have died and seven people [remain](#) unaccounted for since the floods, [described](#) by scientists as the biggest in 180 years, hit the Irkutsk region in late June. Vipers were spotted almost immediately afterward and officials had [warned](#) residents to exercise caution outdoors.

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Increased viper sightings have prompted authorities in at least one of the region's districts to renew their warnings.

“The danger of being bitten has not been ruled out at all. We have only five doses of the

antidote in the area,” the Chunsky district [said](#) in a statement Friday.

Meanwhile, a man in the central Russian region of Chelyabinsk has reportedly [died](#) from a snakebite while waiting for doctors to deliver the anti-venom medicine.

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Closer to Moscow, vipers have [come out](#) of hibernation in the capital’s surrounding region as well as in St. Petersburg this spring.

Eleven out of the more than 50 snake species roaming Russia are [considered](#) dangerous to humans.

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