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Two Hundred Homes Ablaze, Deaths in Siberia Fires: Authorities

By AFP

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Wildfires in Krasnoyarsk Territory, Russia **Avialesookhrana / TASS**

Several fires have broken out in southern Siberia, affecting about 200 buildings and causing at least five deaths, local authorities said on Saturday, adding they had placed the area under a state of emergency.

The fires in the Krasnoyarsk region covered more than 16 zones, spreading to around 200 buildings, several sawmills and a children's playground, the regional ministry for emergencies said on Telegram.

Officials said some 300 firefighters and 90 vehicles were battling the blazes.

"Extinguishing (the fires) is being complicated by meteorological conditions — violent winds are fanning the flames and preventing them from being put out," the ministry stated.

Siberia has suffered from large-scale fires for some years. Last year, they belched 16 million

tons of carbon into the atmosphere, according to an annual European climate report.

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