

In Photos: Russia's Western Siberian, Urals Regions Gripped by Wildfires

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Deadly wildfires continue to ravage regions across Russia's Ural Mountains and western Siberia, destroying hundreds of buildings and forcing thousands to evacuate their homes. According to Greenpeace, the area of forest fires in Russia as of May 10 totaled 5.2 million hectares, almost 10 times larger than official government estimates. At least 23 people have been killed in the blazes since April 25, according to the independent media outlet Verstka. Over the past week, states of emergency have been declared in several regions, including the Sverdlovsk, Kurgan, Omsk and Tyumen regions, with the Kurgan region being the worst-affected. More than 4,800 firefighters and some 6,000 volunteers are battling the wildfires. Russia typically experiences two peaks in wildfire activity each year — the first occurring at the end of April and the beginning of May, and the second in late July and August. During the first peak, open spaces around populated areas most often catch fire. Here is a look at the fires and the damage they have left behind:



Maxim Slutsky / TASS

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