

Far East Russia's Sakha Declares Wildfire Emergency

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Russian Emergencies Ministry

Authorities in Far East Russia's republic of Sakha (Yakutia) on Tuesday [declared](#) a state of emergency due to ongoing wildfires across the region.

More than 40 wildfires [were burning](#) in Sakha as of Tuesday morning, according to regional authorities, engulfing a total area of some 830 square kilometers — roughly the size of Berlin or New York.

By declaring a state of emergency, the region will gain access to critical equipment and personnel from the federal government to help local emergency responders and volunteer firefighters battle the blazes.

The move will also [unlock](#) “additional measures” to help stop fires that threaten residential and commercial areas, according to the head of Sakha's Aerial Forest Protection Service, Vladimir Leonov.

Related article: [Russia Unprepared for 'Alarming' 2024 Wildfire Season, Experts Warn](#)

Sakha is now the [fourth region](#) in the Far East where a state of emergency is currently in place due to wildfires. The other three are the Zabaykalsky and Amur regions, as well as the republic of Buryatia.

Russia's wildfire season officially [began](#) in early March. By mid-April, regions in the Far East [recorded](#) nearly twice as many fires as they had during the same period last year, with most blazes caused by human negligence.

Besides regions in the Far East, the western Voronezh and Kursk regions, the southern Astrakhan region and the North Caucasus republic of Karachay-Cherkessia were [most impacted](#) by wildfires by the end of last month, according to the Earth Touches Me environmental project.

Experts have [warned](#) that limited resources for fire prevention and control, along with ongoing practices such as dry grass burning, risk turning this year's wildfire season in Russia into a crisis.

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