

Wildfire in Russia's Karachayevo-Cherkessia Forces Hundreds to Evacuate

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Social media

A large wildfire in the North Caucasus republic of Karachayevo-Cherkessia has quickly spread over the past two days, prompting the evacuation of almost 250 people at a popular nature reserve, regional authorities [said](#) Friday.

Russian media [reported](#) that the blaze erupted in the resort town of Dombay on Wednesday, temporarily trapping groups of tourists. Eyewitness videos [showed](#) a thick plume of smoke rising into the atmosphere over the picturesque landscape.

Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry [said](#) late Thursday that some of the stranded tourists had been evacuated. It later [said](#) 236 people including 43 children were brought to safety as of Friday morning.

"The fire engulfed 15 hectares [37 acres] of the Gonachkhir gorge... firefighters prevented the flames from reaching the village of Dombay," the ministry [said](#) Friday.

The day before, federal forest protection officials [said](#) the fire at the Teberda Nature Reserve — where Dombay is located — engulfed seven hectares (17.3 acres).

Karachayevo-Cherkessia regional head Rashid Temrezov [said](#) no one was reported injured in the blaze.

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