

Siberian Wildfires Reach 3.5M Acres Across Krasnoyarsk and Sakha Republic

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The Forest Fire center of the Krasnoyarsk Territory

Wildfires across Siberia continued to expand as blazes in the Krasnoyarsk region and the republic of Sakha grew to nearly 3.5 million acres, roughly the size of the U.S. state of Connecticut, forest fire authorities said Monday.

In the Krasnoyarsk region, 128 active wildfires were [burning](#) across 405,800 hectares (1 million acres), according to the regional forest fire center. Sakha, Russia's largest ethnic republic, had 36 active blazes covering 987,067 hectares (2.44 million acres) as of midnight Monday, federal authorities [said](#).

Russia's Aerial Forest Protection Service said more than 1.3 million hectares (3.3 million acres) of wildfires were burning across Russia.

Authorities have [blamed](#) the fires on summer heat and Siberian silk moth infestations, which have killed off vast swaths of trees and left behind highly flammable deadwood.

The Krasnoyarsk region [declared](#) a wildfire emergency on June 10, barring the public from entering woodlands, lighting campfires, burning trash or grass and conducting any other fire-hazardous work.

The spread is concentrated in four northern districts that cover around three-quarters of the Krasnoyarsk region's territory, the Interfax news agency quoted the regional forest fire center as saying.

The EU's Copernicus satellite monitoring unit [said](#) that wildfires in Krasnoyarsk, Sakha and the Yamalo-Nenets autonomous district have been burning with particularly high intensity since the end of July.

"[In] the Siberian Arctic, the peak emissions have been occurring slightly later than usual and at a time when the number of fires might be expected to decrease," the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Services said Friday.

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