

# Wildfires rage in Russia's remote eastern Siberia

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More than 5,000 Russian emergency workers are battling to put out wildfires raging across forests in Siberia, officials said Tuesday.

Over 1,250 square kilometres of woodland are ablaze in at least six

eastern regions, Russia's federal forestry agency said.

The republic of Buryatia, which borders Mongolia and the eastern shore of Lake Baikal, is fighting to extinguish 60 blazes raging through 717 square kilometres of land, the agency said.

Wildfires are a common occurrence in Russia each summer due to the burning of dry grass, and can claim lives and damage property.

The current wildfires have not yet affected inhabited areas, according to authorities.

In April, at least 34 people died in southern Siberia as a result of wildfires while hundreds of others were left homeless.

Investigators at the time launched probes into the deadly fires to determine whether they could have been caused by negligence.

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