

# Russia Sends Aircraft to Battle Israeli Wildfires

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Two Russian planes have been sent to Israel in a bid to help fight wildfires ravaging the country.

The pair of Beriev BE-200 amphibious aircraft landed in Tel Aviv airport early Friday morning, Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said in a statement.

The aircraft will be working closely with Israeli authorities to extinguish the flames, a ministry spokesperson said.

Some 60,000 people have evacuated their homes in the Israeli city of Haifa, [the Times of Israel reported Thursday](#). Flames are also threatening homes near Jerusalem and in the West Bank.

The blazes have been blamed on a two-month drought in the country, despite reports

suggesting that some fires had been “lit☒deliberately” and could be “politically motivated.”

The Beriev BE-200 can hold 12,000 liters of water. Production of☒the craft began in 2003.

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