

Wildfires Engulf Siberia, Sparking Online Pleas for Help

July 26, 2019



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Huge swathes of Russia have been engulfed in wildfires over the past month, prompting hundreds of social media users to issue a plea to the authorities to step up measures to put out the flames.

Embed:

European scientists have [rung the alarm](#) about the 100 and counting “unprecedented” wildfires that have hit Russia's Arctic and Siberia since June. An estimated 2 million hectares of land are currently [burning](#), according to Russia's Aerial Forest Protection Service, roughly comparable in size to the territory of Israel.

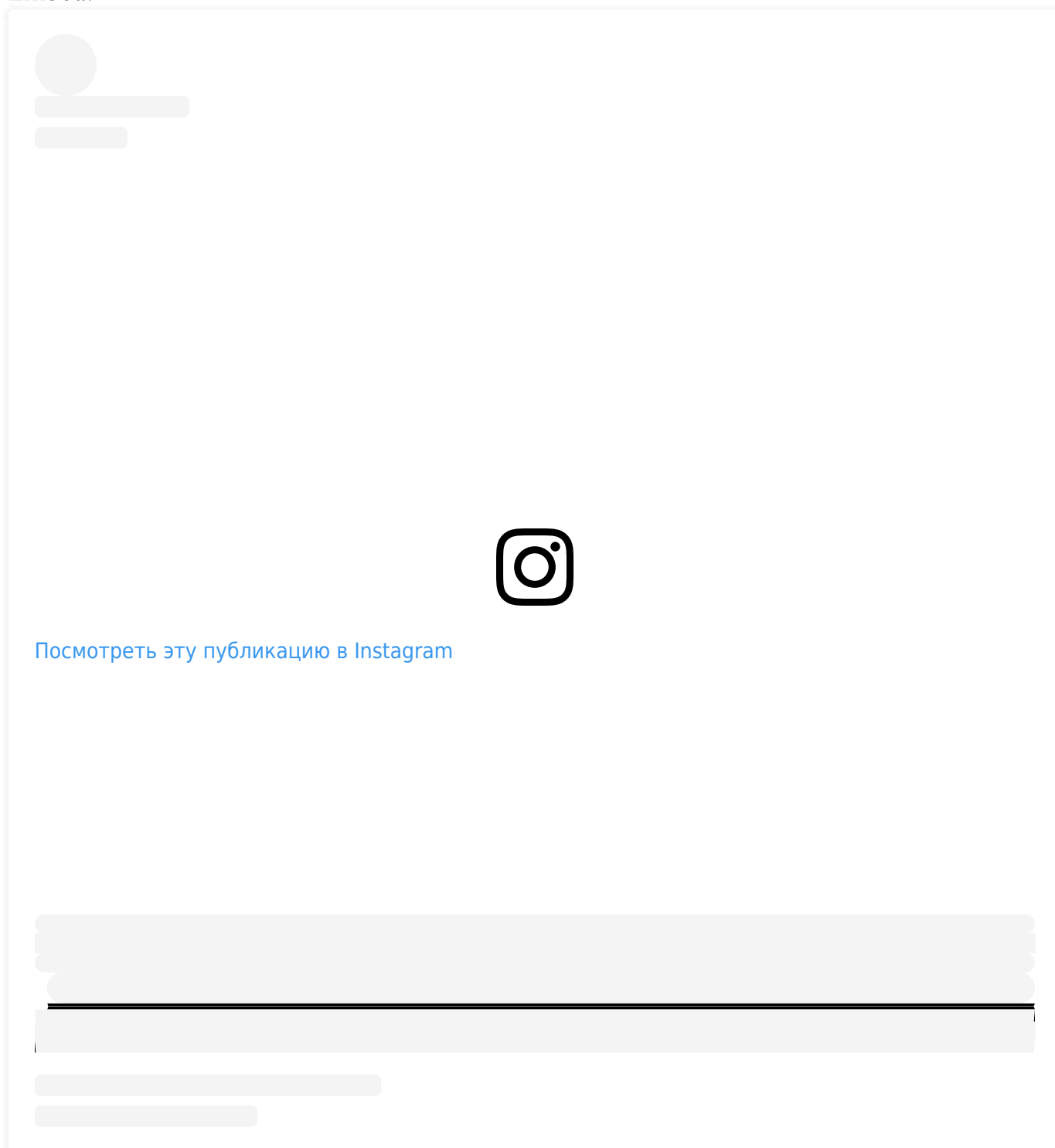
The largest fires — [thought](#) to be triggered by a combination of lightning and human activity — have hit the Irkutsk, Krasnoyarsk and Buryatia regions.

Smog has reached major cities including Novosibirsk and Tomsk, The Siberian Times [reported](#) Monday, leading to a rise in complaints about air pollution. President Vladimir Putin's envoy in Siberia [said](#) Thursday that there was no need to declare an emergency unless carbon monoxide concentration exceeds allowable limits.

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Meanwhile, a change.org petition calling on the authorities to declare a state of emergency and step up firefighting efforts has [generated](#) almost 120,000 signatures in less than a week.

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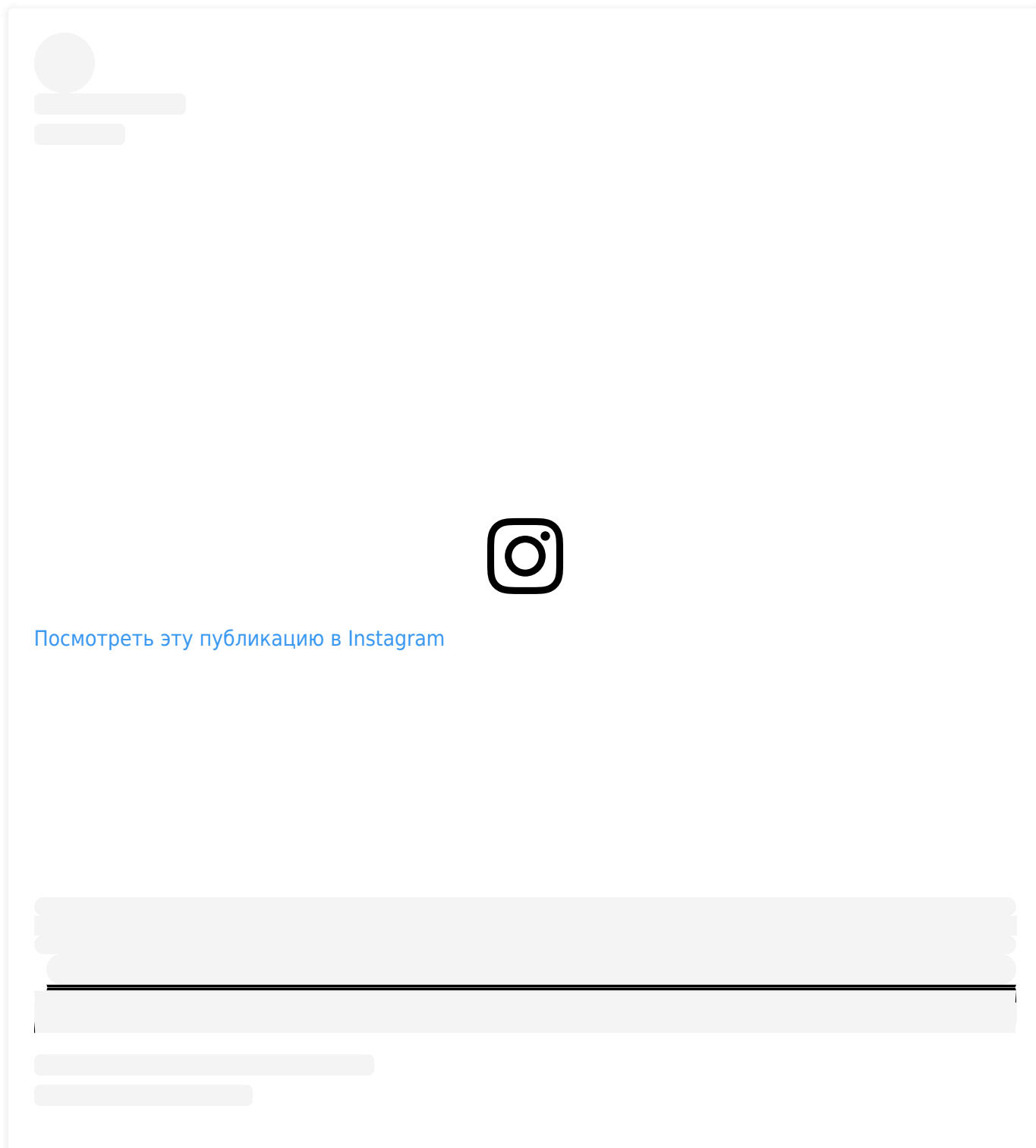


Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

The hashtag #потушитепожарывсибири (#putoutsiberianwildfires) has been trending on Russian Twitter for days, landing in top spot by early Friday.

“I’m tired of not seeing the sun anymore and not being able to breathe,” a user with the account name @yuxwashere [tweeted](#).

Embed:



The embed area contains a placeholder for an Instagram post. It features a circular profile picture icon in the top left corner, followed by two horizontal bars representing the user's name and handle. In the center of the embed is the Instagram logo. Below the logo is a blue text link that reads "Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram". At the bottom of the embed, there are several horizontal bars representing the content of the post, including a large image area and a caption area.

Публикация от Мобильный репортёр (@mreporter_official) 27 Фев 2019 в 10:59 PST

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<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/07/26/wildfires-engulf-siberia-sparking-online-pleas-help-a66584>