

Russians Call for Stronger Action Against Siberian Wildfires on Instagram

July 31, 2019



krsk.news / Instagram

As 3 million hectares of remote forest [burn](#) across six regions in Russia's Siberia and Far East – the approximate size of annexed Crimea — residents of affected areas are using social media to demand that the authorities take tougher action.

Authorities have been slow to respond to the blazes and said any efforts to extinguish them would be "[pointless](#)" even as activists [warned](#) that the "[unprecedented](#)" number of wildfires could have grave consequences to human health and the climate.

Firefighters are working to put out forest fires covering almost 100,000 hectares in Siberia's Irkutsk and other regions, but other wildfires raging on 2.8 million hectares are only being monitored, the Federal Forestry Agency said on Tuesday. On Wednesday, President Vladimir Putin [directed](#) Russia's Defense Ministry to join efforts to extinguish the flames.

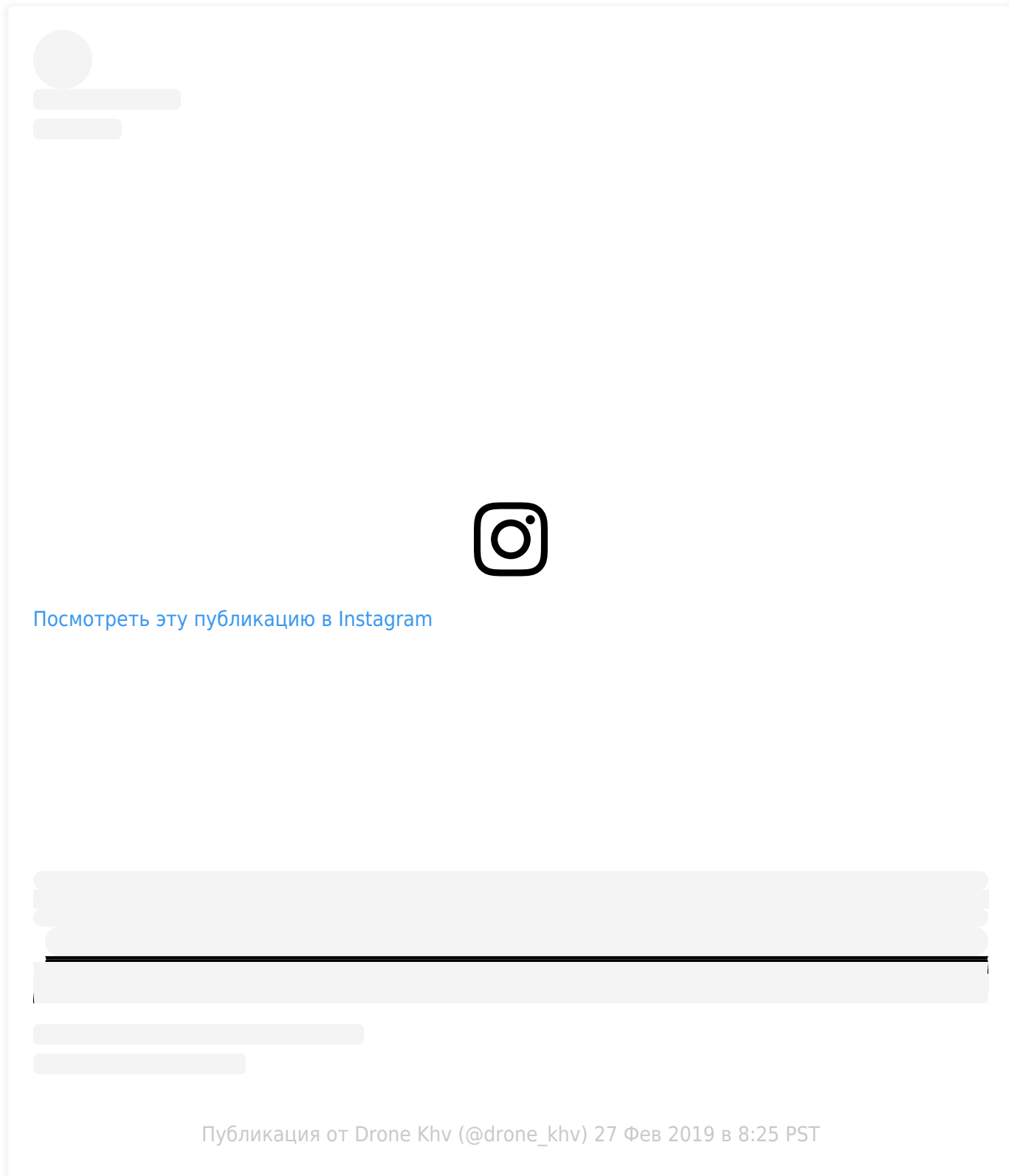
Citizens in affected areas are sharing footage of the situation on social media to draw attention to the fires and acrid smog near where they live. Even Hollywood actor Leonardo

DiCaprio has [taken](#) to Instagram to raise awareness.

Here's a look at some of what's being shared online today:

Drone footage of the heavy smog in Khabarovsk.

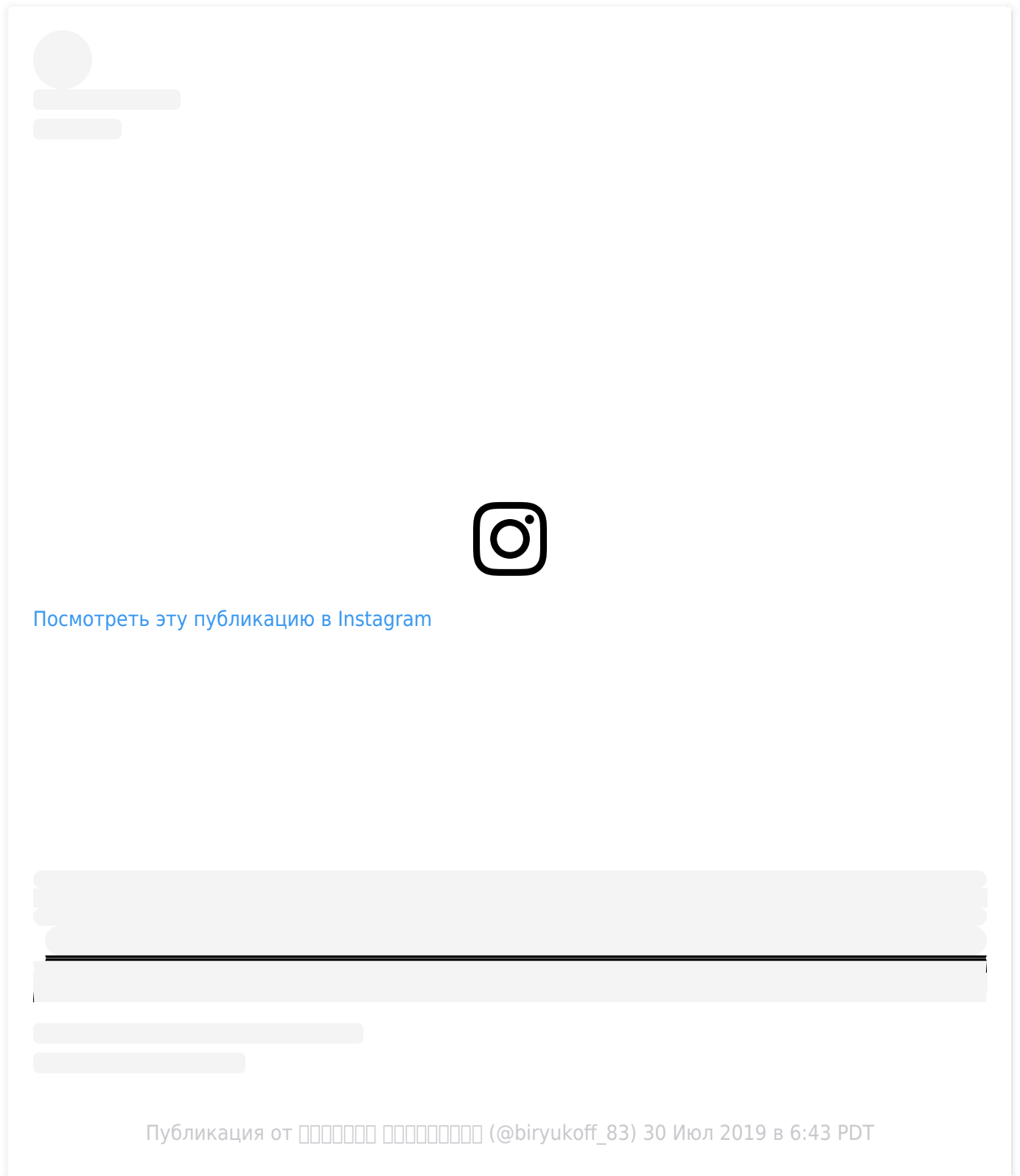
Embed:



Placeholder for an Instagram post embed. The embed shows a grey profile picture, a grey name, a grey bio, a central Instagram logo, a blue link "Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram", a large grey redacted image area, and a caption at the bottom: "Публикация от Drone Khv (@drone_khv) 27 Фев 2019 в 8:25 PST".

Visibility is low as smoke fills Russia's republic of Sakha.

Embed:

An Instagram embed placeholder. It features a profile picture placeholder (a gray circle) and a name placeholder (two gray bars) in the top left. In the center is the Instagram logo. Below the logo is a blue link text: "Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram". At the bottom, there is a caption placeholder consisting of several gray bars, a horizontal line, and a date/time placeholder: "Публикация от [redacted] (@biryukoff_83) 30 Июл 2019 в 6:43 PDT".

Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram

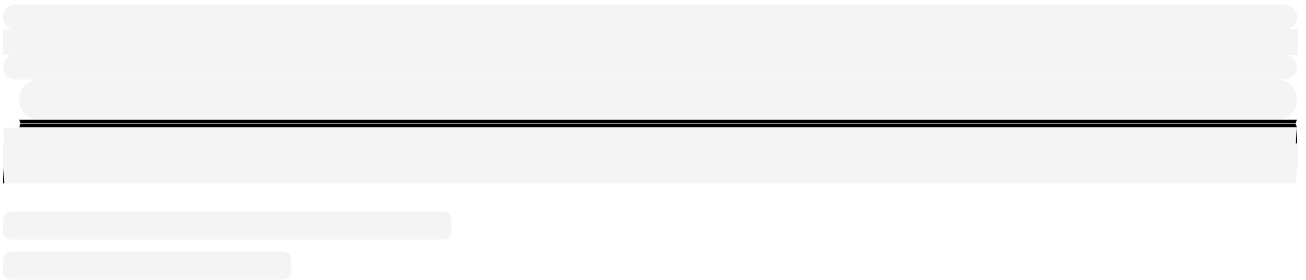
Публикация от [redacted] (@biryukoff_83) 30 Июл 2019 в 6:43 PDT

Novosibirsk shrouded in shades of gray.

Embed:



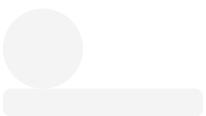
[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Татьяна (@tatyana_photo) 30 Июл 2019 в 7:56 PDT

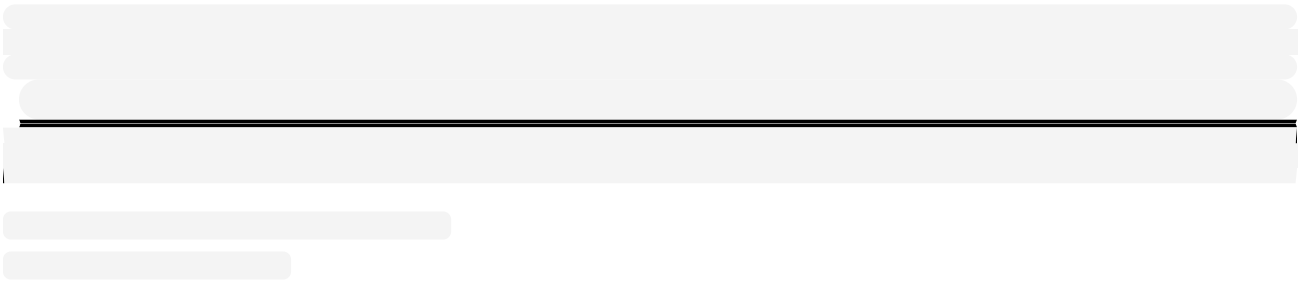
In Irkutsk, another bleak sight across the river presents itself.

Embed:





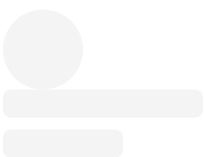
[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Sergey Kalashnikov (@runkalser) 30 Июл 2019 в 5:30 PDT

Navigation is difficult amid the thick smoke.

Embed:





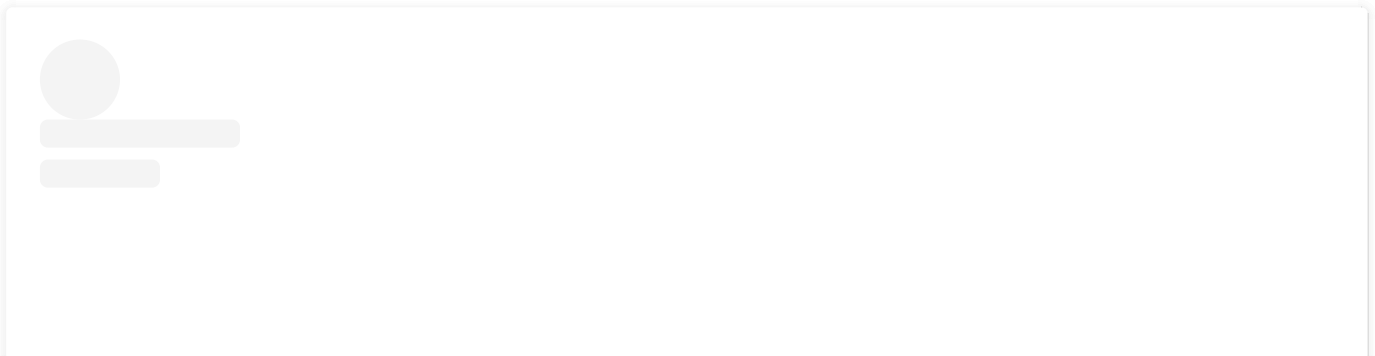
[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от пожары, наводнения, Иркутск (@irkysk_38_) 29 Июл 2019 в 9:03 PDT

On Wednesday, Emergency Ministry jets began [extinguishing](#) fires in the Krasnoyarsk region.

Embed:





[Посмотреть эту публикацию в Instagram](#)



Публикация от Ilya Varlamov (@varlamov) 29 Июл 2019 в 2:59 PDT

Masks are vital as people suffer from the smog.

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Публикация от Новости Красноярска и края 18+ (@krsk.news) 25 Июл 2019 в 5:16 PDT

Reuters contributed reporting.

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