

Weeklong Snowstorm Buries Homes, Disrupts Services in Russia's Far East

February 03, 2025



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A powerful snowstorm buried homes and disrupted essential services in Russia's Far East last week, regional media [reported](#) Monday, as local authorities prepared for another winter storm.

Heavy snowfall [began](#) last Tuesday, blanketing the Sakhalin region capital city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, as well as surrounding towns and villages. Municipal crews [removed](#) at least 430,000 cubic meters (15,185,306 cubic feet) of snow, while local drivers blamed snow removal vehicles for worsening traffic congestion.

In the town of Sokol, north of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, a homeowner found his house completely [buried](#) under snow, while in a nearby multi-story residential building, snow sliding off the roof [shattered](#) the windows of a ground-floor apartment.

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Residents of a village in the Dolinsky district reported being trapped in a four-day “snow blockade” that [halted](#) fresh bread deliveries and raised concerns about ambulance and fire engine access. In the town of Dolinsk, uncollected trash [piled up](#) for days as waste management vehicles were unable to navigate snow-covered streets.

More than 50,000 students from nearly 100 schools in and around Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk switched to remote learning.

There were no reports of injuries or significant damage amid the heavy snowfall.

Emergency officials [issued](#) a new storm warning for Tuesday across the same southern districts hit by the previous snowstorm, urging residents and visitors to exercise caution.

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