

Siberia wildfires under investigation

Russia's military is assisting firefighting efforts as wildfires spread across Siberia. Police are investigating whether the fires were started deliberately to conceal illegal logging activity



■ State of emergency declared in regions of Krasnoyarsk (1), Irkutsk (2), Buryatia (3) and Sakha (Yakutia) (4)

■ Wildfires cover more than three million hectares – area as big as Belgium

■ President **Vladimir Putin** has ordered in 10 army transport planes and 10 helicopters to battle blazes

■ Acrid smoke also affecting large cities such as Novosibirsk, Krasnoyarsk and Chita

■ Regional authorities say fires caused by record high temperatures combined with lightning and strong winds

■ **Greenpeace** says fires are “ecological catastrophe”. Many Russians calling for authorities to take tougher action