«Wild Fires in Russia in July-August 2010: Lessons Learned»

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1

Disaster Triggering Factors

- Abnormal long presence of anticyclone in the European part of the country on June 21 - August 19
- Abnormal high temperatures (up to 40 °C)
- Storms (wind speed up to 30 m/sec) inside anticyclone

2

Dangerous Period of Summer 2010

- End of July – mid of August
- Up to **300** - **400** new fires every day
- First days of fires: **9** villages burned out, **2,000** houses and facilities were damaged, **53** persons perished
- “State of emergency” was declared in 7 regions: Vladimir, Voronezh, Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Ryazan, Republics of Mordovia and of Mariy-El

3

National Forces and Means Deployed

- **166,120** responders (EMERCOM – **133,000**)
- **25,572** vehicles and items of machinery (EMERCOM - more **20,000**)
- up to **49** air assets (EMERCOM – **27**)

4

Application of Aviation

- More than **2,000** flights performed
- More **8,000** water discharges done (78,000 tons of water)

5

Operational Management

- Federal and **40** regional operational HQ
- **535** operational teams on the ground
- More **250** ground and aerial reconnaissance groups
- More **3,000** people were involved in operational management

6

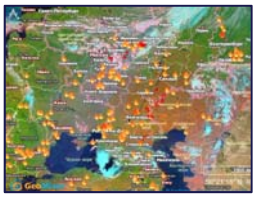
Federal Operational HQ

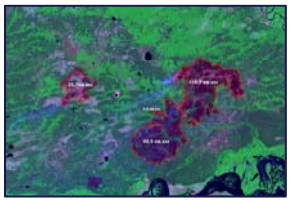
- Based at the National Crises Management Center (NCMC)
- Coordination and operational management of disaster response
- On-line management and communication with operational teams and task forces on the ground through videoconferences

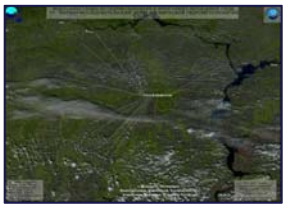
7

Fire Monitoring

- Remote sensing (satellite monitoring)







- Mobile ground and air reconnaissance groups

8

Robotics application




9

International Response

- No international assistance was requested. Hi-tech assistance was accepted on bilateral basis.
- Contributing states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, South Korea, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, USA
- Hi-tech assistance: helicopters and airplanes, high-capacity pumps, self-contained breathing apparatuses, fire hoses, other fire-fighting equipment and smoke masks as relief items.

10

Bilateral Assistance

- **19** foreign states deployed fire-fighting teams and air assets and/or dispatched relief items
- **13** aircraft
- **>100** items of machinery
- **>560** staff
- **285** flights performed
- more **6 000** tons of water disch

11

International assistance acceptance

- Arriving international relief teams and air crews passed border checkpoints and customs in a simplified way (“Special Customs Procedures” was applied in accordance with Federal Legislation)
- Convoys were escorted by Police and EMERCOM staff to places of their deployment
- All international relief teams were accommodated in dormitories and provided with meals
- All the international assets were included by EMERCOM of Russia into the General Fire Response Plan
- International responders were integrated into local (regional or provincial) emergency management systems and incident command structures under coordination of EMERCOM HQ

12

Information Sharing

- UN OCHA ERCC
- EU MIC
- EADRCC NATO
- ICDO

13

Main Figures

- **1,400 km** of fire hoses lines and **38 km** of pipelines laid down
- **3,000 km** of mineralized lines, **200 km** of cross-cuts made
- by August 22, 2010 **8,000** islands of fire over an area of more than **400,000 hectares** suppressed
- **4,672** settlements saved, more **500,000** people rescued

14

EMERCOM Losses & Expenditures

- **3 firemen** perished
- **2,772** items of machinery and vehicles damaged
- **250** km of fire hoses damaged and lost
- **160** tons of foam maker used
- **4,500** kits of firemen clothing damaged
- More **3** billion rubles (approx. **71,5** million euros) spent

15

Lessons learned

Impact of legal aspects on efficiency of forests protection system

Technical capacities of EMERCOM:
- aviation fleet
- hi-tech equipment

Preparedness of aviation and personnel of other agencies to fire-fighting operations

Specifics of voluntary firefighters system in Russia

Interagency coordination

International assistance receipt:
- nomenclature of relief items
- customs clearance
- logistical and distributional aspects

16

Measures undertaken

Legislation improvement

Amendments in Forestry Code

Introduction of Federal law on Voluntary firefighting service

Introduction of Federal law on Technical regulations on fire security requirements

Enhancement of preparedness

Implementation of Programme on the enhancement of fire security of peatbogs for 2011-2013 by Moscow government

Interagency coordination strengthening: interagency working group, joint exercises

Capacity building

EMERCOM State Fire Service Re-equipment Program for years 2011-2013

Other agencies: purchase of discharge devises and personnel training

Introduction of **Plan of Action** to develop an effective and efficient multilateral international emergency management mechanism

17

EMERCOM State Fire Service Re-equipment Program for years 2011-2013

Goal: recovery of lost/damaged equipment, procurement of new items of fire engines, specialized vehicles, machinery and equipment, additional water discharge devices for helicopters, firefighting airplanes, introduction of multifunctional robotics complexes to fire brigades

Funds allocated: 43 billion rubles (approx. **1,3** billion euros)

18

Plan of Action

to develop an effective and efficient multilateral international emergency management mechanism

Development of high-tech international emergency response modules on the basis of national civil protection services

Increasing of national emergency management reserve funds and special funds for international disaster assistance

Conducting regular international exercises to improve readiness and interoperability of national modules in case of international response to potential disasters

Establishment of modern Crisis Management Centers at national level and their incorporation into international network for tactical information exchange during planning and implementation of international emergency response operations

National capacity building to receive international assistance in the most effective way

Assistance to partner-nations in their national emergency management capacity building, including personnel training, equipment supply and technology transfer

19

Thank you for attention!

20