

FIRES LIFTING CHERNOBYL (CHORNOBYL) FALLOUT FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SUFFER

By Idealist.ws, **Aug. 30, 2010 (Last updated)**

Update 1: Chernobyl wildfire fallout detected in Germany

On August 11, the German Federal Office for Radiation Protection (Bundesamt für Strahlenschutz, or BfS), Germany's state radiation protection body, detected an increase in background radiation that they attributed to the radiation-filled smoke from fires burning in Russia's Chernobyl-contaminated areas. On a Bfs [webpage](#) (read it in [German](#)) dedicated to the topic of the Russian wildfires, they state (in their English-translated version) that "There was one case where traces of radioactive substances were transported to Germany whose concentration was harmless under radiation protection aspects ...It has happened in the past that in case of a fire in contaminated areas in Russia small traces of radioactivity that were harmless under radiation protection aspects (in the area of some micro-becquerel of caesium-137 per cubic metre of air) were measured at the Federal Office for Radiation Protection's measuring point on the Schauinsland near Freiburg."

Elsewhere on that page, the Bfs explains the danger inherent in the 'Chernobyl forests': "In case of fires soil and plant particles and thus also the radioactivity bound to them are released into the atmosphere (resuspension). In the immediate vicinity of Chernobyl also trees still show high caesium exposures. This caesium can also be released in case of fires."

Since it is now fact that Russian wildfire fallout made it to Germany, it seems very likely that not-so-safe amounts of radioactive-filled smoke fell in local areas to the fires. It is also likely that contamination in not-so-safe levels fell in other parts of Europe or Asia either in gaps (holes) in radiation monitoring networks or in nations lacking any such networks. It is prudent to note that any exposure to radiation, no matter how small, increases the risk of cancers and mutations.

QUOTES:

"...a deputy for the regional parliament in Bryansk, Lyudmila Komogortseva, found that radiation levels in the burning forests were six to 12 times higher than they were before the fires began." [Ash is much more concentrated, radiation-wise, than biomass before it is burned; so this would make sense]

'Vice President of the European Parliament Rodi Kratsa said in a letter to the chamber last week that there are "serious risks" of radiation reaching Europe and asked her fellow deputies to find out whether Russia has a "prevention plan ... to avoid the release of radioactive particles into the atmosphere.'"

-Fallout from Russia's Fires: The Ashes of Chernobyl? Time, [Link](#)

"There is a higher threat of cancers and future mutations, especially for children."

- Anton Korsakov, environmental researcher at Bryansk State University.
(Chernobyl Blaze Alert,' Mirror, 8/12/2010)

"There are maps of the [radioactive] contamination, and there are maps of the fires. Anyone can put the two together. Why deny this information?"

- Greenpeace Russia

"I think Russian authorities must accept responsibility for radioactive dangers instead of keeping silence about it. They should tell [us] that there is likely a problem with radiation and suggest methods of protection. And of course, it's important to determine now where radiation is being re-distributed by wind."

-Nataliya Manzurova, resident near Mayak 1957 disaster ([source](#))

MAIN STORY:

Over the past two weeks, a Chernobyl Reloaded has been in the making, thanks to [wildfires that are breaking out in parts of Russia](#) that received some of the greatest deposition levels from Chernobyl fallout. Long-lived radioactive isotopes, such as Cesium-137 and Strontium-90, which are deposited from fallout events such as nuclear weapons tests and large-scale radiological accidents, tend to reside in the top few inches of the soil and also become lodged in vegetation and dead biomass. Hot burning wildfires - such as a record-breaking, large wildfire in 2007 that lifted legacy fallout radiation north of [Milford, Utah](#) - can suspend back into the air up to 100% of this lingering radioactivity where winds can carry these carcinogens.

How far can the winds carry this stuff? Thousands of miles. This was confirmed in 2006 when an international team of scientists discovered that forest fires are capable of re-suspending radioactive fallout debris over great distances. They found that nuclear testing fallout found in the soils of Canada was 'still being redistributed far and wide by forest fires' and this fallout was 'subsequently transported across great distances.' The hard-hit fallout areas of Chernobyl are virtually no different in character than lingering nuclear testing fallout in North America's soils. The problem is the concentration of radiation is thousands of times higher. On August 11, 2010, Professor Edmund Lengfelder who is chairman of the German Society for Radiation Protection said in a public radio interview in Germany that 'the chance of radioactive particles entering the atmosphere was "very large" and that these could travel up to thousands of kilometers depending on wind conditions.' Lengfelder commented that "Nobody can be sure about

the distance these particles could travel in the wind." ('Russian fires hit Chernobyl-affected areas, threatening recontamination,' Deutsche Welle, 8/11/2010)

The health danger? A 1996 scientific study noted that during wildfires in radioactively contaminated areas, **'If the elements were radioactive isotopes, such as I-129, Cs-137 and Cl-36, fires could cause an increased radiological dose to people through inhalation, exposure to ash, or ingestion of plants because of increased uptake of ash leachate.'**

Regrettably, Russia is hardly forthcoming about the existence and nature of the fires and also the radiological public health problem. Worse, Russia's radiation monitoring network is probably no better at detecting in real-time or near-real time these radiation plumes than those arrayed throughout the United States. As we discuss on our [Nevada](#) page, the U.S.'s Environmental Protection Agency's RADNET monitoring network is inadequate for characterizing the ingredients in any reasonable amount of time of smoke-filled radiological plumes crossing over the U.S. regardless of its origin. The prime reason why millions and millions of federal dollars were spent in recent years to (failingly) upgrade RADNET was because of EPA's failure to adequately monitor radiation-filled smoke from wildfires that in 2000 ripped through contaminated areas of Hanford and LANL, two DOE nuclear 'reservations.' The EPA, as with most of the scientific community, knew that smoke from both those events was radioactive and this time the EPA hopes its RADNET 2.0 will do a better job, but it won't. The results of radiological analysis will take days and weeks, not minutes and hours. That is too late for most of us.

The EPA cannot be trusted with regards to radiation and public health. A very convincing reason why this is the case is that the agency was complicit in a joint radiation coverup with the DOE when the 1986 Chernobyl fallout began crossing over the continental United States. In a shameful and deceitful act, the DOE began to fully and deliberately vent radioactively contaminated smoke and air from the tunnel of a failed nuclear test in Nevada called 'Mighty Oak' precisely at the moment the air outside was toxic with Chernobyl fallout debris. The EPA then blamed all unusually high radiation readings from their deployed and mobile monitors in the U.S. Southwest on Chernobyl and then packed up their monitors as Chernobyl fallout 'moved on' (dissipated) but that was **before** the DOE's radioactive tunnel was fully purged. [More.](#)

Assurances from ANY environmental agency or nuclear nation should be taken with a grain of salt. Oh, add the media to that list too. Untrusty old National Public Radio (NPR) recently ran a piece titled 'Russian Wildfires Threaten With Radioactive Smoke' that quoted a Humboldt State University professor whose preliminary and 'reassuring' results from a modeling exercise found that, regarding the Russian fires, 'in the worst possible fire, people downwind would only be exposed to a very small amount of additional radiation.' NPR itself has a history of playing down radiation dangers - they have to, and if you research who their biggest underwriters are, you'll know why.

If indeed wildfires are burning hot enough and 'wildly' enough through Chernobyl fallout-areas such as (most notably) the Bryansk region and the territories of Kaluga, Chelyabinsk, Kurgan, Tula, Orel, Penza, etc... (other Chernobyl-hit areas), then it is a certainty that fallout is **now circling the globe**. Areas in Belarus, for example, have persistently higher background radiation levels that are two to seven (and more) times higher than normal in non-Chernobyl hit areas. For example, the Belarus government has on record these background gamma radiation figures: "69 microrentgen per hour in Bragin, 57 in Narovl, 23 in Chechersk and Slavgorod, and 25 in Khvoyniki." (MINSK. Aug 12. (Interfax Russia)) Most of this additional gamma radiation coming from the ground is from Chernobyl-originated Cesium-137, which won't decay to safe levels until the years 2300 or 2400. Parts of the United States are also contaminated from radiation from Chernobyl and nuclear accidents and testing fallout.

World leaders need to declare now a worldwide radiological crisis. In some areas of Russia citizens are being advised to avoid contact with the smoke, although they are told that the danger lies solely in the smoke, and not the smoke combined with radiation too.

This crisis requires immediate action by all capable nations. They must take the following steps to avoid unnecessary damage to the world's public health: deploy mobile monitoring equipment on the ground and in the air, increase the frequency intervals on monitoring apparatus, bypass all tiered review protocols and remit all data immediately to the public without revision, track worldwide plume movements and monitor large-scale rain events to predict 'rainouts,' and educate and ready populations and public health agencies in 'wet areas' to take shelter during fallout deposition events and possibly avoid drinking water, milk and agricultural and meat products in the days or weeks following the fallout.

Not just the forests that are in danger

Press reports indicate the fires have endangered and could still endanger other nuclear areas. For instance, the Bryansk region is home to its own nuclear facilities (other than contaminated 'Chernobyl forests') including nuclear weapons research centers and about twelve reactors, which depend on cool water, which is hard to come by during the worst-ever on record heat-wave! A nuclear production facility in Snezhinsk in the Chelyabinsk region that was partly surrounded by flames was put on red alert on Aug. 11 but the warning was later dropped. Other areas threatened by the fires have included or may include a huge reprocessing plant in the Southern Urals, the Mayak Chemical Combine, whose dumping points that include lakes and rivers 'are running dry and spreading contaminated sediment' ([source](#)). The president of a local watchdog group told Bellona news: 'There is a real threat that the situation of 1967, when exposed banks of the contaminated Lake Karachai were spread by whirlwinds carrying radiation that was spread throughout a significant portion of the Chelyabinsk and neighboring regions. This led to the necessary evacuation of several dozen populated areas that were contaminated as a result of windborne radiation.' Other areas include the multitudinous temporary staging areas for tactical nuclear bombs; the forests of the Chernobyl-contaminated Belgorod region; one of Russia's largest chemical weapons storage facilities, the

Maradykovo arsenal in the Kirov region, that has stores of sarin and soman gases; the Novovoronezh Nuclear Power Plant; the All-Russian Research Institute of Experimental Physics facility in Sarov (Russia's main nuclear research center); and the Urals Radioactive Trace (EURT). EURT, considered one of the most radioactively contaminated areas on Earth, was 'formed' from the debris of a 1957 nuclear waste explosion, also at the above-mentioned facility at Mayak. As the water level drops in the nearby Techa River, which was heavy polluted (and horrificly poisoned downstream communities) by the 1957 explosion, its radioactive silt will be exposed to winds and resuspended; likewise, radioactive dust clouds could emerge if fire spreads along the river's drying fauna.

According to one [source](#), fires were burning in contaminated areas in and around Russia as early as July 2010. So, the lofted radiation from Russia's wildfires likely has spread across parts of Eurasia and the globe by now.

Testimony from Eco-Defense (Russia) co-chair who was 'taken' on a chaperoned government tour of Bryansk region

"As for the radiation measurements, the ones taken by the MChS [Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations] guys were off, compared by the ones rung up on my [Inspector](#) (*Geiger-Muller detector with great alpha/beta sensitivity*), by a factor of about three. Three times as low. Furthermore, as it turned out, they never measured alpha radiation to begin with - they just don'tMost notable in his speech was the claim that it made little sense measuring anything but gamma radiation, because everything else posed no threat whatsoever. The question whether it really was no danger at all to inhale an alpha particle into one's lungs never generated an intelligible answer. Not that it was needed, not after Chernobyl anyway. When, in a conversation with Bryansk officials, we broached the subject of the risk of radiation carried elsewhere by air currents as a result of wildfires, we were told that the migration of radionuclides was, of course, a possibility.If radionuclides had already been spread by winds from the burning forests, then the regions where they most likely ended up were not the areas around Bryansk, but the neighbouring Belarus and Ukraine. Taking into account that in Bryansk Region, MChS only takes gamma radiation measurements at the ground level - and, according to a local official radiation specialist who I spoke with at dinner, it's not certain that this kind of measurements are supposed to indicate anything at all of value - it is anyone's guess how much radiation is there or how much has been transferred by winds, and where. Honestly, hard as I might, I couldn't understand how one could make such peremptory assertions as the MChS had, that background radiation levels in the area were normal, when essentially there was no substantive information to back that up. To have the basis to make such assertions, one will have to take aerosol measurements - check the content of radioactive particles in the air - for which the MChS apparently has no equipment, pure and simple. If they do have it, they chose not to show us. Furthermore, it wouldn't hurt to check the levels of alpha radiation, too, not just gamma radiation. Airborne concentrations of alpha particles, which could cause irreparable harm to the health of the local population and the fire-fighters, may not necessarily be something gamma radiation measurements would pick up on....Earlier, MChS officials said radiation levels were being monitored on a

continuous basis in Bryansk and that Rosgidromet was taking measurements in several locations. As it turned out, to our surprise, this was only true for one location - and precisely for three days, August 13 to 15, when a lab was deployed from this agency for field measurements. That is, exactly when the MChS said no more major fires had been happening in the region. In other words, a curious picture is shaping up: When the fires were burning in Bryansk, and aerosols needed to be measured for radiation levels, *no one was doing that*. Not to mention that taking measurements in one location only is, to put it mildly, an underachievement...the MChS's assurances that Bryansk Region is suffering no radiation safety problems because of the fires are, in fact, a fickle smokescreen barely covering a complete lack of hard facts..... In fact, this entire tour of Bryansk forests was a confirmation of all the fundamental risks we and other environmental organisations had warned about before....Komogortseva told us, the total mass of radioactively contaminated deadwood found in Bryansk forests was currently estimated at one million cubic metres (!). All possible measures must be taken to prevent that dry mass from bursting into flames... Of all places in Russia where appropriate radiation safety measures are sorely needed, Bryansk Region, regardless of the fire hazard, is a leading candidate - and, from what we've observed, it is yet to see them.."

-Vladimir Sliviyak, co-chair of Russia's Ecodefence!, in *Belona*,
'[Comment:A sad tale of emergency officials, ecologists, and the press wandering in a radioactive wood - Russia's MChS maintains all is quiet on the Bryansk front](#),' 8/21/2010

Possible smoke from Russia entering North America:

'Additional aerosols were seen coming ashore from the west/southwest over southern California but the composition and origin of this aerosol **is unknown** and it does not appear to be remnant smoke.' [NOAA smoke text product - DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY THROUGH 0330Z August 19, 2010 - [link](#)]

'Northwest Territories: A narrow ribbon of thin smoke was aligned in a north to south orientation and extended from north central Northwest Territories northward off the Arctic coast and reached to just off the west coast of Banks Island.' [Thursday, August 19, 2010 DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY THROUGH 1700Z August 19, 2010 - [link](#)]

Later: [Thursday, August 19, 2010 DESCRIPTIVE TEXT NARRATIVE FOR SMOKE/DUST OBSERVED IN SATELLITE IMAGERY THROUGH 0215Z August 20, 2010] - [link](#): Pacific Northwest: A few patches of very thin smoke were seen over north central Oregon, northern Idaho and into extreme northwest Montana, drifting to the east. The source of the smoke is not clear but is likely from fires yesterday in northern Oregon and Washington.

Links:

Greenpeace Russia's [Map of fires](#)

Track smoke movements using NOAA data - [Smoke Text Product](#)

Censorship and rumor-policing begins:

On August 8, Roslesozashchita (RCFH), the Russian state forestry agency, posted data '[which pin-pointed areas most at threat](#) from radiation redistribution into the atmosphere of fires that have been burning across Russia since July.' The information related information to the public about the fires in areas contaminated by Chernobyl and provided recommendations to local authorities about how to protect and alert residents. The site was closed/shut down by Russia authorities, but then restored later (on Aug. 18) with the August 6th message censored - taken off (the website of Roslesozashchita).

[Snapshot of webpage](#); text produced below

- 6.08.10 Пожары на землях, загрязненных радионуклидами

По данным радиационного мониторинга, проводимого ФГУ "Рослесозащита", на территории субъектов РФ с наличием земель, загрязненных радионуклидами, с середины июня зарегистрированы лесные пожары на площади 3,9 тыс. га, в том числе по наиболее загрязненным территориям:

Брянская область - 28 пожаров, на площади 269 га, в том числе на юго-западе области 12 пожаров на площади 9 га;

Калужская область - 11 пожаров, на площади 173 га

Челябинская область - 401 пожар, на площади 1431 га;

Курганская область - 12 пожаров, на площади 63 га

Тульская область - 6 пожаров, на площади 44 га;

Орловская область - 3 пожара, на площади 13 га;

Пензенская область - 34 пожара, на площади 82 га.

Все органы государственной власти, на территории которых находятся загрязненные радионуклидами территории, должны предпринять неотложные меры:

- по информированию населения и организаций, особенно осуществляющих работы в лесу, о лесных пожарах на загрязненных территориях;

- по организации противопожарных мероприятий в первую очередь на загрязненных территориях;

- по защите населения на задымленных территориях;

- по выявлению мест переноса радиоактивного материала.

ROUGH TRANSLATION IN ENGLISH:

-6.08.10 [August 6, 2010]

Since mid-June (July?), FGU Roslesozaşita has calculated that fires have burned 3,900 (??) hectares on lands contaminated by radiation in the territory of the Russian Federation; the most contaminated territories include:

- Bryansk oblast-28 fires on 269 hectares, including 12 fires on 9 hectares in the southwest area (most Chernobyl-contaminated part of Bryansk) of the Piazza (in region's southwest)
- Kaluzhskaya oblast-11 fires on 173 hectares
- Chelyabinsk region- 401 fires across 1431 hectares
- Kurgan region-12 fires burning area of 63 hectares
- Tulsкая oblast-6 fires burning an area of 44 hectares
- Orel Oblast-3 fires on 13 hectares
- Penza region- 34 fires burning 82 hectares.

All public authorities overseeing contaminated territories must take urgent measures: to inform populations and organizations, especially those working in the forest, of the forest fires in the contaminated territories; fire protection activities primarily in the contaminated territories; protection zadymlennyh (??) territories to identify places impacted by the transport of radioactive material.

June 7, 2010 - Soviets used nukes to put out runaway gas wells.... but on one occasion created hell on Earth

By Idealist.ws

Don't believe a damn word from any nuclear power about their professed triumphs with peacetime nuclear explosions, including the former Soviet Union, which - via its surviving nuclear 'scientists' - claims to have had successes using nukes to extinguish natural gas calamities. It was - and still is - in the respective federal interests of Russia and the U.S. to withhold any information (especially radiation and accident data) about their atomic testing programs that could be damaging to their reputations and their treasuries. So, we don't know the whole picture - we are only given pieces of the puzzle. It is foolhardy to believe anything the United States or the former Soviet Union has said about their nuclear test programs - it is probably safer to assume the worst rather than the best.

When it comes to information on atomic testing in the former Soviet Union, much of this information must to be taken with a grain of salt. Data about Soviet 'peacetime' tests is meager and often contradictory. We do know - or maybe not! - that one of the Soviet

peacetime nuke attempts to extinguish natural gas calamities came with a mushroom cloud. According to a recent article in *Oil and Gas Eurasia* titled "[Remembering a Nuclear Explosion to Close a Gas Well in the USSR](#)", an accident occurred when a new gas well was being drilled in Ukraine's Krasnograd district in July 1971 but the gas shot through to the surface, fanning a fire of flames tens of meters high. The gas-fire was resistant to conventional extinguishing techniques and so the decision was made to use a nuke, which was placed in a shaft drilled about two kilometers beneath the surface. According to the article 'About 400 people lived just 400-500 meters from the well in Pershotravneve village...but they knew nothing of the planned nuclear blast.' The nuke test, dubbed 'Fakel,' took place on July 10, 1972, and the article states that 'A huge, dirty radioactive mushroom cloud arose over a kilometer high and then quietly floated off towards Sanzhar (Poltava Region, Ukraine). Eye-witnesses recall that as the shadow passed everyone felt as if the world was ending. And then there was a deathly silence.'

It turns out the nuke test's shockwave and rock debris from a volcanic eruption of gas (a kilometer high!) turned the village partly into a ruin. 'It took a year to rebuild, and still the villagers did not know what exactly had happened. People living in other villages nearby said no-one ever warned them of the danger of radiation or told them not to eat their fruits or vegetables or drink their cows' milk. But they learned later - apparently someone in the village was tuning in to the Voice of America.'

During the 1960s and 1970s, the U.S. government conducted several 'peacetime' atomic experiments in a smattering of U.S. states under the banner of the "Plowshare Program" that offered the promise of harnessing the power of the atomic bomb to overcome some of America's greatest engineering problems. The A-bomb, according to the 'bomb-men,' could be used to excavate harbors, build a new Panama Canal, blast highway passes through mountains, and even tap into untouchable oil and gas formations. It was in the gas fields of western Colorado that the flame of the Plowshare Project burned its brightest until her citizens helped put it out for good. Atomic bombs several times the power of the one that destroyed Hiroshima were used in the underground explosion experiments dubbed 'Rulison' (1969) and 'Rio Blanco' (1973) that were intended to 'liberate' natural gas trapped in tight rock formations. The [Rulison](#) project was a success, according to the feds, however local city councils ruled that the gas was too radioactive to use. The feds, rashly, burned (flared) the contaminated gas into the atmosphere, releasing nuclear contaminants into Colorado's food and water supplies. The test dubbed 'Rio Blanco,' which comprised three 33-kiloton nuclear bombs, failed to create the desired effect and resulted in significant surface contamination at the site. Although Coloradans were lucky that these explosions didn't cause earthquakes, or horribly vent, or contaminate the Colorado River system, they were fed up - so much so that they voted in the mid-1970s to amend their state constitution to stipulate that the voters will have the final say, should the federal government wish to explode nuclear bombs in Colorado for the 'public good.'

No nuclear bomb has ever done any good for humanity, nor will it ever. Should a nuclear bomb miraculously succeed in stopping BP's gusher, it will come with great unknown and unanticipated costs (i.e., seismic-wave induced liquifaction of unstable,

unconsolidated sediments on the Gulf floor that could trigger landslides and wreck nearby underwater structures such as pipes and other well heads and other BOPs!), and ultimately be a **Giant Leap Backwards For Humankind**.

Sadly, the only way for 'the people' to quickly take control of the situation in the Gulf that is being made worse by absent leadership, corporate greediness, media kowtowing to a corporation that's too big to !*#\$ with, and psychopathic problem-solving means (dispersants, potentially 'nukes') is through the federal courts. One group has already served BP with a notice of intent to sue over the dispersant's impact on wildlife: more [here](#). But what is needed is injunctive relief to stop application/dumping of hazardous chemicals into the oceans. And then another injunction to stop the imminent deployment of a nuke.