

## Floods ravage Russian Republic of Yakutia

by UPI

YUZHNO-SAKHALINSK, Russia -- Residents of the Russian Republic of Yakutia have either abandoned their homes or remain stranded after a series of floods ravaged the region this week.

While more than 3,000 residents remained in their homes during the natural disaster, Itar-Tass said Thursday that 2,500 people have evacuated.

Floodwaters had covered 12 populated areas and ravaged 814 homes.

In response to the flooding, emergency officials set up 21 emergency centers for the evacuees unable to find temporary shelter in highland areas.

In addition, rescue efforts were underway Thursday throughout the flooded areas of Yakutia.

Nearly 1,400 workers from the Russian Emergencies Ministry were working to transport food to the flood victims and monitoring the region's water levels, the Russian news agency said.

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