

346 hotspots detected ahead of Idul Fitri

Satellite images have detected 346 hotspots in Sumatra, many of them in Riau province, signifying a looming threat of forest and peatland fires ahead of Idul Fitri.

“Based on Terra and Aqua satellite images received by the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysical Agency (BMKG), 346 hotspots have been detected in Sumatra, 148 of them in Riau,” National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) information and data division head Agus Wibowo told Antara news service in Pekanbaru on Friday.

He said the hotspots were recorded on July 25 at 5 a.m. local time. The number of hotspots has drastically surged based on observations on Thursday afternoon, when 87 hotspots were detected in Riau.

Haze affected visibility in a number of regions in Riau at 7 a.m.

“Dumai city and Pelalawan regency were blanketed in haze this morning and caused visibility to drop to between 1 and 4 kilometers,” he was quoted by Antara as saying.

Visibility in Pekanbaru city was recorded at 3 km due to haze mixed with fog. Despite that, it had not disrupted flights at Sultan Syarif Kasim II Airport in Pekanbaru.

Of the hundreds of hotspots detected in Sumatra, those in Aceh and West Sumatra were relatively minimal. Among the provinces where hotspots were detected were Riau, North Sumatra, West Sumatra, Jambi and South Sumatra.