

Satellite detects 18 hotspots in Sumatra

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) satellite operated by Singapore detected 18 hotspots across Sumatra Island on Saturday.

“So far, the number of hotspots is not worrying, however, we should remain watchful,” Saqlul Amri, head of the Riau disaster mitigation office (BPBD), said in a statement as quoted by Antara on Sunday.

Of the total 18 hotspots, four were found in Rokan Hilir regency, he said.

In Rokan Hilir, two hotspots were located in Sungai Sigajah village, Kubu district, one in Balam Sempurna, Bagan Sinembah subdistrict, and another in Sungai Daun village, Pasir Limau Kapas district.

The number of hotspots in Riau on Saturday was significantly lower compared to the previous day.

“Yesterday, more than 10 hotspots were detected in Riau alone. The gutted land areas produced smoke,” he stated.

The Riau administration has extended the haze emergency status to Nov. 30, Riau Provincial Police Chief Brig. Gen. Condro Kirono said.

The decision to extend the emergency status that began on June 23 was based on a report issued by the presidential working unit on monitoring and control (UKP4), which said there was more than a 60 percent chance that the El Niño phenomena would develop and that the possibility would remain high until 2015.