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Welder Detained After Fire Guts Russian High-Rise (Video)

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Firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire at the twenty five-storey building in Krasnoyarsk on Sunday.

A welder is in police custody after allegedly causing a fire that gutted 15 apartments in a high-rise in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, the region's governor said Monday.

The man faces a charge of destruction of property by recklessness for allegedly causing the fire while welding a balcony on the 25-floor building, Governor Stella Alexeyeva said in comments carried by state news agency RIA Novosti.

The blaze erupted on Sunday and was extinguished hours later, including with the assistance of a firefighting helicopter that sprayed water into upper floors.

More than 100 residents were evacuated, and no injuries were reported, state newspaper Rossiiskaya Gazeta reported. The building was constructed only a few years ago, and many of the apartments were still vacant.

The worker's identity has not been disclosed. Krasnoyarsk is the third largest city in Siberia.

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