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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Teenager Shot Dead After Game With Friend Goes Awry

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A teenager in southern Russia died from a gunshot wound after his friend fired a hunting rifle at him as part of a game Thursday, the Investigative Committee said in a statement.

The 16-year-old died at the scene during the incident in the Saratov region, and investigators are looking into the shooting, the statement said.

According to preliminary data, the deadly shot was made by the victim's 15-year-old friend during a game, the statement said.

In another recent case, a teacher in Russia's Bashkortostan region shot and injured a student when trying to reload a non-lethal rifle during "Foundations of Safety and Lifestyle" class, the Gazeta.ru news portal reported earlier Thursday.

The rifle's traumatic cartridge penetrated the girl's skin, but was removed in a hospital, spokeswoman for the Investigative Committee's regional branch Svetlana Abramova was quoted as saying.

"Foundations of Safety and Lifestyle," known in Russia by its acronym OBZh, is intended to teach students about healthy living, responses to possible natural or technological disasters, and — in line with a revived Soviet practice — the basics of so-called civil defense.

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