

Russia Launches Nationwide Safety Investigation Into Malls After Deadly Fire Kills 64 People

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Donat Sorokin / TASS

Russia has launched safety investigations at shopping malls across the nation in the wake of a massive fire that killed scores of children and adults in Siberia.

Emergency officials confirmed 41 children and 23 adults were killed in the flames that swept through the mall in Kemerovo on Sunday. Five people have been detained, and investigators say fire exits had been blocked and fire alarms were not working when the fire tore through the Winter Cherry mall's upper floors.

Related article: [Russia Buries Victims of Mall Blaze as Flags Fly at Half Mast](#)

Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry [said](#) in a statement Wednesday that nationwide

inspections have been ordered by the General Prosecutor's Office.

"The ministry's supervisory body specialists are focusing on the work of alarm and fire-extinguishing systems, emergency exit routes and fire extinguishing equipment," the ministry said.

The inspections, targeting malls in Russia with "entertainment centers" and movie theaters, are scheduled to wrap up on April 16.

The Prosecutor General's Office [said](#) it was monitoring the inspections.

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