

World Cup Stadium Grounds Washed Away by Rain

July 16, 2018



Artyom Tikhonov / Vkontakte

Heavy rainfall has washed away soil outside one of Russia's World Cup stadiums before the football tournament ended on Sunday.

Photos and [videos](#) on social media showed clay soil [eroding](#) around the \$270-million Volgograd Arena, while footage from inside the venue [depicted](#) flooded stalls and staircases. Authorities [declared](#) a state of emergency Sunday after heavy rains nearly paralyzed the southern Russian city.

Embed:

"The new stadium's foundation did not let the water through, and rainwater eroded the top layer of fertile soil," the head of the administration [told](#) the local Bloknot-volgograd.ru news website.

Russian blogger Ilya Varlamov [blamed](#) the flood, which took place on the last day of the World Cup, on subpar drainage systems.

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The city on the Volga River has previously been subject to severe heat, swarms of gnats and vipers [crawling](#) toward the stadium during the month-long tournament.

Rain also eroded roads and sidewalks in the World Cup host city of Nizhny Novgorod last week, Varlamov [wrote](#).

The emergency in Volgograd was not all bad news, as at least one resident took advantage of the flood to [sail](#) the streets on a floating mattress.

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