

Fire Kills 7, Including 3 Children, in Southern Russia

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At least seven people, including a family of five, were killed in a New Year's fire in southern Russia's Orenburg region.

Authorities [said](#) the victims may have died from smoke inhalation in the town of Orsk, some 1,800 kilometers southeast of Moscow. Children aged 4 and 6, as well as a five-month-old newborn, are said to be among those killed.

"The bodies of two guests were also found: a man and woman who came to celebrate the New Year holiday," the Investigative Committee, which opened a criminal case into death by negligence, [said](#) Wednesday.

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Regional emergency services [named](#) a short-circuit in the private home's kitchen as the preliminary cause of the fire.

Orsk's administration [announced](#) a three-day state of emergency in connection with the deadly blaze as of Wednesday.

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