

Moscow Park Bridge Collapse Prompts Inspection, Dismissal

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Mikhail Tereshenko / TASS

The head of Moscow's popular Gorky Park has been dismissed and an inspection was announced following the collapse of a footbridge minutes after the clock struck midnight on New Year's Eve.

Thirteen revelers greeting the arrival of 2019 were injured early Tuesday when a section of the wooden bridge fell onto an ice rink below as the Russian national anthem played in the background.

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New Year's in Russia: A bridge over the Gorky Park skating rink collapses as the national anthem plays, injuring 13. Police rope it off & people keep skating. This after a flat block collapsed in a gas explosion in Magnitogorsk, killing at least 7. No

burning Christmas trees yet pic.twitter.com/sHDT6pU4kO

— Alec Luhn (@ASLuhn) [December 31, 2018](#)

“We’re conducting an in-depth investigation,” Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin [tweeted](#) on Tuesday. “Those guilty will be punished.”

The park’s press service [said](#) a part of the bridge that [reportedly](#) runs for 350 meters along the park’s outdoor ice rink “broke for technical reasons.” An unnamed source [told](#) Interfax preliminary findings indicate the bridge was overcrowded.

In the aftermath, Sobyanin fired the head of Gorky Park, Marina Lyulchuk, and [replaced](#) her with the current head of Mosgorpark, the city park administration, Vyacheslav Dunayev. The mayor pledged compensation to those injured with up to 500,000 rubles (\$7,400).

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