

Woman Killed in New Russian Apartment Building Blast

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At least one resident was killed in Russia's second apartment building explosion in as many weeks over what authorities say was a gas leak.

Thirty-nine people were killed on Dec. 31 when a section of a Soviet-era apartment block went down in the industrial city of Magnitogorsk. Authorities said the tragedy, which raised questions over negligence, occurred because of a gas leak.

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A Monday morning [explosion](#) on the top floor of a nine-story building has reportedly claimed one life in southern Russia's former mining town of Shakhty.

"One person died on the ninth floor," an unnamed Emergency Situations Ministry official

[told](#) Interfax. The victim was later [identified](#) as a woman.

Regional authorities said several people were [injured](#) and four others remain under the rubble in the town 1,000 kilometers south of Moscow. Some 140 residents have been evacuated.

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After the Magnitogorsk explosion and a subsequent deadly minivan blast in the city on Jan. 1, speculation swirled over a possible terror attack. The regional news outlet znak.com said Friday it had [forwarded](#) several questions to the Investigative Committee, including regarding whether the two incidents are connected.

Rostov region governor Vasily Golubev said Monday's explosion in Shakhty was "absolutely" due to a gas leak.

"A woman allegedly sensed a gas leak in one of the apartments and was planning to contact the authorities," he was [quoted](#) as saying. ☒

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