

# In Most of Russia Emergency Hotline Doesn't Work, Audit Finds

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A federal audit has found that a shockingly low number of Russian regions have a fully functioning emergency telephone number, the equivalent of 911 in the United States.

Russia's 24-hour hotline, 112, combines the fire service, the police and ambulances and is designed to reduce the emergency services' response time. A 2013 [target](#) envisioned the system working in 67 out of Russia's 85 regions by 2017.

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However, the emergency hotline is fully operational in only 12 regions across Russia, the Audit Chamber said in findings [published](#) Monday.

"Currently only 28 percent of the population living in 15 percent of the country's territory can fully benefit," deputy chairperson Vera Chistova said.

Chistova blamed a lack of inter-agency cooperation and funding cuts on the stalled deployment of the emergency hotline. She said the Audit Chamber will conduct a second inspection after a bill drafted by the Emergency Situations Ministry becomes law.

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