

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

January 15, 2019



Pixabay / MT

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.

Related article: [Russia Needs a Better Post-Putin Vision \(Op-ed\)](#)

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.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/01/15/in-most-of-russia-emergency-hotline-does-not-work-audit-finds-a64140>