

Russian City Recruits Traditional Gingerbread Cookie for Emergencies Ministry Gig

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71.mchs.gov.ru

Anyone who's visited Russia is likely familiar with the *pryanik*: that chewy, icing-covered gingerbread cookie filled with fruit jam or honey that hails from Tula, a city south of Moscow.

It's a treat so beloved that Tula has given it a new gig: as a fire prevention instructor for the local emergencies ministry.


Dressed in an official uniform with his giant, angular head bearing a demure smile, the *pryanik* attended the swearing-in ceremony for his new job and took pictures with his new coworkers and curious children Tuesday.


The photos of the *pryanik* quickly spread across the Russian-speaking internet, sparking their fair share of memes and jokes.

The *pryanik*'s position as a fire safety instructor also drew some [criticism](#) given Russia's

handling of this year's devastating forest fires in northeastern Siberia.

Embed:

Теперь это работник МЧС - Тульский пряник.
Он будет ходить по школам и учить детей пожаробезопасности.
Показалось наверно.  pic.twitter.com/YA7wfu17G5

— Догоняй! Е7ЫЮ9  (@mix_voronezh) [August 17, 2021](#)

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pic.twitter.com/6sEIsTgcOf

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During the photo op, the *pryanik* received a uniform with the words “Tulsky” and “Pryanik” (Tula *pryanik*) printed on the front as well as a certificate and a special medal for promoting the rescue business. The eager recruit then conducted a safety lesson to children at a local recreation center.

But as of Tuesday afternoon, the ministry's announcement has been [taken down](#) from its website.

Located some 200 kilometers south of Moscow, Tula considers the *pryanik* and the samovar to be its points of local pride. Tula residents have even gone as far as declaring the *pryanik* to be the eighth wonder of the world.

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