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30 YEARS
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6 Dead in Fire at Russian Aerospace Defense Research Institute – State Media

April 21, 2022



A fire at the Russian Aerospace Forces' Central Scientific Research Institute in Tver. **Alisa Dovydenko / TASS**

Six people died Thursday when a fire engulfed a Russian military research institute involved in developing air defense systems in the northwestern city of Tver, local officials said.

Russian television showed thick black smoke rising from inside the yellow four-story building of the Central Research Institute of the Russian Air and Space Forces.

Embed:

> В Твери загорелось здание НИИ воздушно-космической обороны. На пожар выехали пожарные расчеты. По данным ТАСС, погибли 2 человека, еще 30 пострадали.https://t.co/GijjUA8CIH pic.twitter.com/3nO56rZ9R9

— Коммерсантъ (@kommersant) April 21, 2022

Several of the institute's employees had to jump out of windows on the upper floors to escape the flames, according to witnesses quoted by broadcasters.

The Tver regional government said in a statement carried by state media that six people were killed and 21 injured in the blaze, updating earlier tolls.

Preliminary information suggests the fire was caused by faulty electric wiring, the TASS state news agency said.

The defence ministry said the institute focuses on research related to Russian air and space defense, as well as the development of new anti-aircraft systems.

Accidental fires are common in Russia, where hundreds of blazes are recorded each year due to aging and dilapidated infrastructure and non-compliance with safety standards that are often lax.

AFP contributed reporting.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/04/21/6-dead-in-fire-at-russian-aerospace-defense-research-institute-state-media-a77446