The Moscow Times
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8 Dead After 'Tour' of Moscow Sewer Hit by Rain

By AFP

August 21, 2023



Police services near central Moscow's Zaryadye Park. **Moskva News Agency**

Updated with revised death toll, end of search operations.

Search operations have been called off after all eight members of a guided tour of Moscow's sewer system were found dead following heavy rain over the weekend, emergency services told state media on Tuesday.

According to the TASS news agency, water levels in the sewer rose quickly following a downpour and the victims were unable to escape to the surface.

The body of a man was later found in the Moskva River, TASS reported, after three others including that of a girl were discovered earlier in the day.

Video shared on social media showed investigators peering down a manhole cover in the

capital, while divers searched the Moskva River.

Multiple tour guides offer trips down into the vast tunnels of the capital's sewer system, some of which were constructed during the 19th century.

One urban explorer said there were shelters in the tunnel where people could escape, but that nobody could be found.

"I hoped that maybe I would still be able to find some survivors there. There are two shelter points, but there was no one there," urban explorer Daniil Davydov told the RIA news agency.

Law enforcement officials have launched a criminal investigation into the organizer of the tour, local media said.

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