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Ukraine Says Hit Oil Depot in Russia Used by Moscow's Air Force

By AFP

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Tetiana DZHAFAROVA / AFP

Ukraine on Wednesday said that its forces had hit a Russian oil depot that services Moscow's air force hundreds of kilometers from the warring countries' shared border.

The apparent attack is the latest in a series of escalating cross-border strikes by Moscow and Kyiv targeting energy and military facilities, almost three years after the Kremlin launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

"Ukrainian defense forces hit a Russian oil depot in Engels," in the Saratov region, the Ukrainian general staff said in a statement on social media.

"It should be noted that this oil depot provided fuel to the Engels-2 military airfield, where enemy strategic aviation is based," the general staff added.

Russian officials acknowledged in earlier statements that Ukraine had attacked the region

with unmanned aerial vehicles.

The defense ministry said its air defense systems had downed 32 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 11 over the Saratov region.

Embed:

> A Engels, regione di Saratov, in Russia. il deposito petrolifero dello stabilimento Kristall di Rosrezerv ha preso fuoco dopo un attacco di droni ucraini. Si tratta di un'agenzia federale per lo stoccaggio del carburante per la base aerea russa Engels-2. pic.twitter.com/zVrKHTTACv
>
> — jacopo iacoboni (@jacopo_iacoboni) January 8, 2025

Regional governor Roman Busargin said that an emergency response team had been dispatched to an industrial facility where a fire had broken out after a Ukrainian drone attack, without elaborating on the type of facility.

Busargin said that no one was wounded in the attack.

Kyiv has claimed that its previous attacks on oil facilities were part of ongoing efforts to dent Russian energy revenues that are used to fund the military in Ukraine.

“The destruction of the oil depot creates serious logistical problems for the strategic aviation of the Russian occupiers and significantly reduces their ability to strike at peaceful Ukrainian cities and civilian objects," the general staff said.

Kyiv, meanwhile, said overnight that Ukrainian air defense systems had downed 41 Russian drones over the country while another 22 were downed by electronic jamming systems or were lost by air force radars.

Separately, in the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson, authorities said two people had been killed and five more wounded by Russian artillery and attack drones.

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