

Candle Factory Explosion Injures 3 in Bashkortostan

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At least three people were seriously injured and one remains missing after an explosion and fire at a candle factory in the republic of Bashkortostan, emergency authorities <u>said</u> Friday.

The blaze broke out around 8 a.m. local time at the Svecha plant in the city of Salavat, located around 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) southeast of Moscow.

The local branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry <u>said</u> the fire was caused by a "violation of industrial safety procedures" that led to the "depressurization of furnace equipment," resulting in an explosion that destroyed a production building.

Footage shared by emergency services showed firefighters working around the charred remains of a partially collapsed structure.

Three people were hospitalized in critical condition, while rescue teams continued searching for a fourth person believed to be trapped under the rubble.

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