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Ukrainian Drone Attacks Spark Blazes at Seaport and Oil Refinery in Southern Russia

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Mikhail Tereschenko / TASS

Ukrainian drone strikes sparked fires at a seaside fuel storage facility and an oil refinery in southern Russia, local authorities said Thursday, as other regions across the country reported downing dozens of unmanned aircraft.

Officials in the Krasnodar region said two fuel storage tanks caught fire in the port city of Temryuk shortly before 4 a.m. local time. They did not say whether the blaze had been extinguished by midday, but reported no casualties.

In the neighboring Rostov region, Governor Yury Slyusar said an air attack sparked a fire at an industrial facility in the city of Novoshakhtinsk. A firefighter was injured while battling the blaze and sent to the hospital, he added.

Ukraine's military later confirmed that it struck the Temryuk seaport and an oil refinery in

Novoshakhtinsk, saying it used British-supplied Storm Shadow cruise missiles in the latter attack.

“The Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to take necessary measures to undermine the military-economic potential of the Russian invaders and to force Russia to end its armed aggression against Ukraine,” it said in a statement on Facebook.

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Elsewhere, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said air defenses downed 25 Ukrainian drones heading toward the Russian capital within a 23-hour period, including nine intercepted after 11 p.m. local time Wednesday.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said Thursday morning that air defense systems shot down 141 Ukrainian drones overnight across 11 Russian regions, annexed Crimea and the Sea of Azov. It said seven drones were downed over the Krasnodar region.

Civil aviation authorities temporarily restricted flights at several airports, including in Krasnodar, where operations were suspended throughout the night.

Meanwhile, Ukraine’s military said Russia launched 131 drones at its territory, of which 106 were downed.

Ukraine has intensified strikes on Russia’s energy infrastructure since the summer in an effort to cut Moscow’s oil revenues, a key source of funding for its war effort.

November marked a monthly record for such attacks, with at least 14 Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian oil refineries reported.

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