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Blast at Russian Police Training Center Injures 20 in Republic of Komi

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Shot / Telegram

Updated with additional details.

An explosion followed by a fire injured at least 20 people on Thursday at a police training center in northern Russia's republic of Komi, local authorities said.

The blast occurred during daytime hours at the regional Interior Ministry's Professional Training Center in Komi's capital of Syktyvkar.

An instructor at the center had detonated an imitation grenade during a lesson, igniting flammable materials inside the building and causing a fire to break out, said the regional branch of the Investigative Committee, Russia's top investigative body.

Regional officials said 20 people were taken to the hospital, four of whom were in critical condition. One injured person declined hospital treatment and was treated at the scene.

Around 200 people were evacuated from the building, emergency services said.

Russian media outlets reported that the explosion took place in the building's assembly hall, which was undergoing renovation.

The Mash news outlet, which is believed to have links to Russia's security services, reported that a gas cylinder also exploded after the initial blast, setting construction scaffolding outside the building on fire.

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The fire was contained to an area of about 340 square meters, the regional emergency ministry said.

The Komi Interior Ministry said it had launched an internal review into what it described as a "roof fire."

The incident occurred during a training session and all those injured were cadets at the center, the ministry said.

The Investigative Committee said it would seek the instructor's pre-trial detention on charges of abuse of authority resulting in grave consequences, an offense under Russia's Criminal Code.

A separate criminal case has been opened on charges of negligence.

The Interior Ministry said the head of the training center, who took up his post in the summer of 2025, had been suspended from his duties pending the investigation.

Video footage published by Russian media showed people in work clothing evacuating injured individuals along scaffolding through smoke-filled windows.

The center is responsible for training new rank-and-file officers and providing advanced instruction for serving personnel at the regional Interior Ministry.

Last year, local television broadcast the oath-taking ceremony for 57 trainees at the center, including new traffic police officers, criminal investigators, detectives and district officers.

Read this story in Russian at The Moscow Times' Russian service.

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