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Ukrainian Strike Damages Central Russian Oil Refinery, Baltic Port Oil Facility

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The Lukoil-owned Kstovo Refinery. **Oksana Korol/Business Online/TASS**

Ukrainian drone attacks have damaged an oil refinery in the Nizhny Novgorod region and oil transportation infrastructure near the Baltic Sea port of Primorsk, regional authorities said Sunday.

A total of 87 drones were intercepted over Russia and annexed Crimea overnight, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

Nineteen drones were downed in the skies above the northwestern Leningrad region, which is home to the major oil export hubs of Primorsk and Usta-Luga.

Leningrad region Governor Alexander Drozdenko initially said debris from one of the drones damaged a section of an oil pipeline near the port of Primorsk and that the pipeline was being "safely burned out."

However, Drozdenko later clarified that fuel tanks had caught fire as a result of the attack, not the pipeline.

"The damage has already been dealt with," he said.

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Primorsk, located between the Finnish border and St. Petersburg, has been repeatedly attacked by Ukraine over the past month.

In the Nizhny Novgorod region, where 30 drones were downed overnight, two facilities of the Lukoil-owned Kstovo Refinery were set ablaze by falling debris, regional Governor Gleb Nikitin said.

The attack also damaged several residential buildings, garden plots and a thermal power plant, causing power outages across two towns, according to local officials.

No injuries or deaths were reported.

Both Ukraine and Russia regularly launch drone and missile attacks at each other's territory, with officials in Kyiv justifying their strikes as retaliation for Russia's full-scale invasion and ongoing occupation of Ukrainian territory.

Ukraine has ramped up its strikes on Russian energy infrastructure in recent weeks in a bid to deprive the Kremlin of windfalls from soaring oil prices.

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