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Heating Main Break Leaves 40K Without Heat in Russia's Far East

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Dmitry Demeshin / Telegram

A ruptured heating main left around 40,000 people without heat and hot water in the Russian Far East city of Khabarovsk on Saturday as temperatures fell to around minus 15 degrees Celsius (5 degrees Fahrenheit), regional Governor Dmitry Demeshin said.

The break occurred at 3:50 a.m. local time in the city's Industrial District, cutting service to 147 buildings, including 125 residential buildings. Crews restored service to some buildings by switching them to another heating main, but 82 were still without heat and hot water as of Saturday morning.

Residents reported outages in the Flegontova and Stroitel neighborhoods and in several buildings along Industrialnaya Street.

"Our homes are getting cold, the kids are at home and it's almost minus 15 outside," one resident wrote in a local Telegram channel.

Demeshin, who visited the site, gave no timeline for restoring service. He said crews were using five pumps to drain the damaged main before they could begin repairs. Emergency workers set up heated tents for the crews.

The outage came a day after the Far Eastern Generating Company, which operates the region's heating network, announced that it had completed winter preparations and received certification from Russia's Energy Ministry. The company said it had repaired 357 pieces of equipment and upgraded or replaced nearly 33 kilometers (20 miles) of heating pipes in 2026.

Some residents said utility outages had become a regular occurrence.

"Since April, it's been almost every month. Either there's a problem with the water or there's a problem with the electricity," one resident wrote in a local Telegram channel.

Khabarovsk, one of the largest cities in Russia's Far East, has a population of more than 600,000. A separate heating main break in February left at least 119 apartment buildings and 40 houses without heat and hot water.

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