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Russia Downs 93 Ukrainian Drones as Fire Breaks Out at Sochi Oil Depot

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Russian officials reported intercepting 93 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) overnight in a significant escalation in aerial conflict. The interceptions coincided with a major fire at a fuel depot near the resort city of Sochi, reportedly sparked by debris from a downed drone. Air traffic at Sochi International Airport was briefly suspended and later resumed.

According to Russia's Ministry of Defense, the UAVs, uncrewed aerial vehicles used for reconnaissance and strike operations, were brought down over multiple regions, including

60 above the Black Sea and at least one over the Krasnodar region. Officials emphasized that Russia's air defense systems successfully neutralized the threats and prevented further damage to vital infrastructure.

The most serious impact came from a fire at an oil storage facility operated by Rosneft near Sochi. Veniamin Kondratyev, Governor of Krasnodar Krai, confirmed the blaze began when drone fragments struck a fuel tank. More than 120 firefighters responded, and emergency teams declared the fire under control by early Sunday, August 4, 2025.

The Federal Air Transport Agency, Rosaviatsia, announced that flight operations at Sochi Airport were paused temporarily for safety reasons and resumed shortly thereafter. No injuries or fatalities were reported, though images from the site show extensive damage to the facility.

In a separate incident in the Voronezh region, further north, Russian authorities reported that drone strikes injured four people and ignited fires at several sites. The Kremlin stated its air defense systems also intercepted 18 more UAVs in that area.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's Air Force said Russian forces launched 76 drones and seven missiles during the same period. Ukrainian officials reported intercepting 60 of those drones and one missile, while the rest hit targets across eight different regions. In the city of Mykolaiv, a missile landed in a residential area, injuring at least seven civilians.

While Russian authorities confirmed no casualties in the Sochi incident, the attack highlights Ukraine's increasing ability to target strategic assets deeper inside Russian territory. State-aligned media praised the fast and effective response of Russian defense forces, particularly in protecting infrastructure and public safety in areas far from the front lines.

Ukraine has not issued a direct statement on the Sochi strike, but Kyiv has consistently framed similar operations as justified responses to Russian attacks on civilian infrastructure. Earlier in the week, Ukrainian officials condemned a missile strike that killed 31 people, including children, and renewed their appeals for stronger Western military support and expanded sanctions against Moscow.

Despite the ongoing conflict, both countries agreed to a prisoner exchange involving 1,200 individuals following discussions in Istanbul. However, no ceasefire has been reached.

Separately, U.S. President Donald Trump has set a deadline of August 8, 2025, for progress toward peace negotiations and warned of additional sanctions if Russia fails to engage diplomatically.

As hostilities persist, both nations continue to demonstrate increased long-range capabilities, with infrastructure and civilian areas on both sides remaining vulnerable to further strikes.