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Russia Intercepts 93 Ukrainian UAVs Amid Sochi Fuel Depot Fire

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Russian officials confirmed the interception of 93 Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) overnight, with most downed over the Black Sea and one over the Krasnodar region. The aerial defense response coincided with a significant fire at a fuel depot near Sochi, reportedly ignited when drone debris struck a fuel tank. Sochi Airport briefly halted flights before resuming normal operations.

The Ministry of Defense stated that the UAVs, uncrewed aerial vehicles commonly used for reconnaissance or combat, were neutralized across multiple strategic zones. According to

the report, 60 were intercepted above the Black Sea, with the remaining drones taken down across other regions. Officials emphasized the efficiency of Russia's air defense systems in minimizing potential damage to critical infrastructure.

The most severe damage occurred near Sochi, a resort city along the Black Sea coast, where a Rosneft-operated oil facility caught fire. Regional Governor Veniamin Kondratyev reported that over 120 firefighters responded to the incident. Emergency services contained the blaze by early morning on Sunday, August 4, 2025. No injuries or deaths were reported, though visuals from the scene showed substantial structural damage.

Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency, known as Rosaviatsia, announced that flights at Sochi International Airport were temporarily suspended due to the nearby fire. The suspension was lifted once the situation was under control, allowing both domestic and international flights to resume.

Elsewhere, in the Voronezh region, Russian officials said a separate drone strike injured four people and ignited fires in several locations. The Kremlin stated its forces intercepted an additional 18 UAVs in that area as part of ongoing defensive measures.

On the Ukrainian side, military authorities reported that Russia launched 76 drones and seven missiles during the same period. Ukraine's Air Force claimed it intercepted 60 drones and one missile, while the rest struck eight different locations across the country. In Mykolaiv, a missile landed in a residential district, injuring seven civilians, according to local reports.

The fire at the Sochi depot marks one of Ukraine's most notable long-range UAV strikes against Russian energy infrastructure. Though Kyiv did not comment directly on the incident, Ukrainian officials have repeatedly described such operations as responses to continuous Russian attacks on cities and civilian infrastructure. Earlier in the week, Ukraine condemned Russian missile strikes that killed 31 civilians, including children, and renewed calls for increased Western military support and sanctions against Moscow.

Despite active military operations, both countries agreed to a prisoner exchange involving 1,200 individuals following negotiations in Istanbul. However, no broader ceasefire agreement has been reached. In a related diplomatic development, U.S. President Donald Trump issued a deadline of August 8, 2025, for progress toward peace negotiations, warning of additional sanctions if Russia fails to engage constructively.

The continued use of drones and missiles by both sides reflects the conflict's intensifying reach and technological evolution. Strategic assets and civilian areas remain at risk as both nations expand the scope of their operations beyond immediate frontlines.