

1 Dead, 2 Missing After Dam Collapses in Northwestern Russia

July 29, 2024



Russian Defense Ministry

At least one person has died and two others missing after a torrent of water poured over a cofferdam in northwestern Russia early Monday and flooded the surrounding area, authorities said.

Water washed away the temporary barrier between two locks of the White Sea-Baltic Canal in the republic of Karelia, regional head Artur Parfenchikov [wrote](#) on the Russian social media website VKontakte. He did not say what caused the cofferdam to break.

Parfenchikov said more than 100 firefighters and emergency workers were sent to the area impacted by the flooding. Authorities [declared](#) a state of emergency in response to the incident.

The state-run TASS news agency, citing emergency service officials, [reported](#) that 13 homes were destroyed and three people were rescued. Nine people had initially been reported missing, but rescuers later found seven of them, including children.

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Videos shared on social media showed water rushing over what appeared to be the area where the cofferdam was placed. A woman in one of the videos shouts: “The dam is gone, it’s simply gone... homes were washed away with the people inside.”

Parfenchikov later on Monday [said](#) a construction worker was found dead, while the search for two missing people continued.

The White Sea-Baltic Canal connects northwestern Russia’s White Sea with Lake Onega and has an outlet to the Baltic Sea. According to Parfenchikov, the cofferdam was installed for reconstruction work on the canal.

Monday’s dam break marks the second such incident in Russia in recent days. On Friday, heavy rains led to the [collapse](#) of a dam in the Ural Mountains region of Chelyabinsk, where at least one person [was killed](#) by flooding in nearby villages.

In April, the [collapse](#) of a dam in the southern Orenburg region led to historic flooding throughout the region, forcing thousands of people to evacuate their homes.

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