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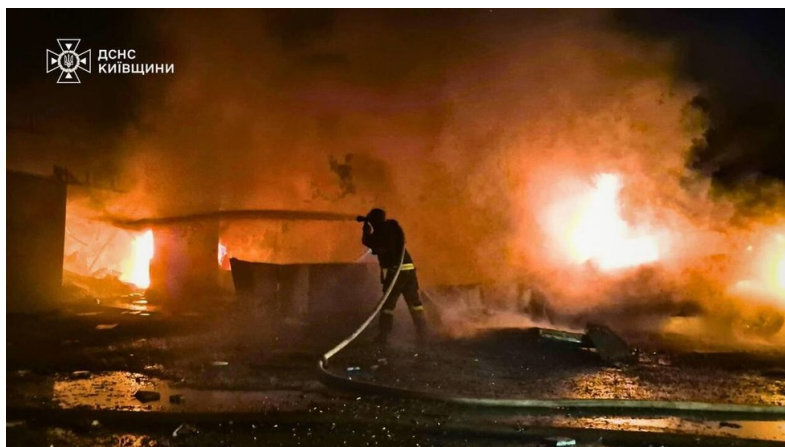
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# Kiev mayor urges residents to evacuate

Half of the apartment buildings in the Ukrainian capital have been left without heating, Vitaly Klitschko has said



FILE PHOTO. Firefighter crews work to extinguish flames following a Russian strike on Kiev, Ukraine. © Getty Images / Anadolu / State Emergency Service of Ukraine

Kiev Mayor Vitaly Klitschko has urged the city's residents to evacuate, stating that some 6,000 apartment buildings in the Ukrainian capital have been left without central heating.

Klitschko blamed the “*extremely difficult situation*” in the city on overnight Russian strikes. Moscow has said it targeted drone production facilities, energy infrastructure, and other military-related facilities across Ukraine in response to an attempted “*terrorist*”

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*attack by the Kiev regime*” on Russian President Vladimir Putin’s residence in late December.

*“I appeal to residents of the capital who have the opportunity to temporarily leave the city, where there are alternative sources of power and heat, to do so,”* Klitschko wrote on his Telegram channel, stating the overnight attack became the most *“painful”* for the city of three million amid the Ukraine conflict.

According to the mayor, nearly half of Kiev’s residential buildings ended up without central heating after the strikes. An unspecified number of buildings have also been hit by water supply disruptions. He said that the city’s authorities *“hope”* to restore central heating for *“some”* of the affected buildings by the evening. The situation in the city is further aggravated by heavy snowfall and low temperatures.

In a follow-up post, Klitschko urged those residents who still have access to amenities to help less fortunate citizens and *“invite them to warm up or cook food.”* The mayor also reminded the residents that the capital has some 1,200 heating stations, so-called *“points of unbreakability,”* where people can warm up, get hot food, and charge their electronic devices.



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Russia has ramped up its long-range strikes campaign against Ukraine’s military and dual-use infrastructure in recent months. According to Moscow, the ongoing wave of strikes comes in response to the continuous effort of the Ukrainian military to attack Russia’s energy infrastructure, as well as to indiscriminate strikes on civilians.

In Russia’s Belgorod Region, over half a million people were left without power after overnight Ukrainian airstrikes, according to Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov, with temperatures near freezing. In addition, over half a million were left without heat and over 200,000 were left without water and sanitation services. The city of Oryol reportedly also faced heavy blackouts.

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