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## **In Astrakhan, probe into married couple's death as a result of hot water pipe burst referred to court**



The Astrakhan Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation finished a probe into the Director of Apartment Buildings Management Center LLC accused of committing an offence under Part 3 of Article 238 of the Criminal Code of Russia (rendering of services which do not meet standards for safety of life and health of consumers and have entailed the death of two persons by negligence).

According to investigative data, on the night of February 13-14, 2018, a hot water pipe burst occurred in an apartment on Zelenaya Street of Leninsky District of Astrakhan, inhabited by a 71-year-old man and his 78-year-old wife. Their neighbors called the rescue service and the couple's children. Upon arrival to the scene, rescuers and relatives discovered the bodies of the senior citizens showing no vital signs; the temperature in the apartment reached 80C and the floor was flooded with water. A forensic examination showed that the death of the senior citizens was caused by the burns

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they had received.

The investigation established that the hot water standpipe in the bathroom of the designated apartment had started leaking in summer 2017. The arrived breakdown service workers had eliminated the leak by installing a clamp but had failed to inform the tenants that the pipe had been designed for a cold water supply system. The Director of Apartment Buildings Management Centre LLC failed to take proper measures to fix the pipe and did not send an emergency brigade to deal with the emergency, which led to the pipe burst.

The investigation gathered enough evidence; therefore, the criminal case with the approved indictment was sent to the court to be tried on the merits.

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