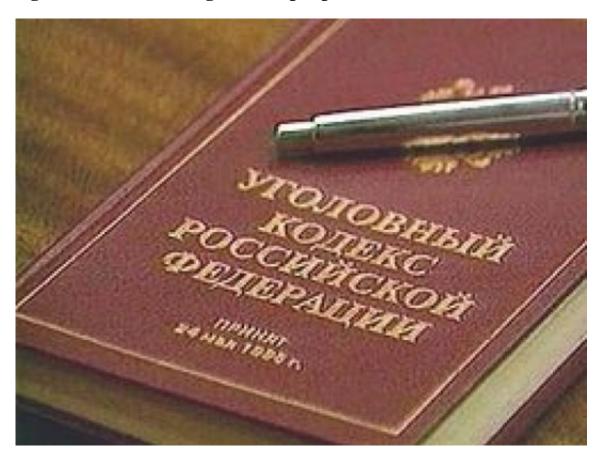
Criminal investigation opened in Moscow Region into explosion in high-rise house killing several people



Today about 9:30 AM, an explosion happened in a 9-storey residential building in the village of Zagorskiye Dali, Sergiyevo-Posadsky district, Moscow Region damaging 4 flats and crushing the ceilings between 8 and 9 floors. A six-month baby, his 33-year-old mother and their 71-year-old grandmother and 91-year-old grandfather were killed in the explosion, all of them lived in one flat. The investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee in Moscow Region have launched a criminal investigation in signs of a crime under part 3 of article 219 of the RF Penal Code (violation of fire safety rules, involving by negligence death of two or more people).

According to preliminary information it was the explosion of household gas. The roof and the ceilings between 8 and 9 floors were partly destroyed between 3 and 4 sections of the house, 8 flats were destroyed. 4 people with different injuries were hospitalized. Rescuers are going on removing

the debris and extricating the victims from under the ruins.

At present investigators and criminologists of the Moscow Region Main Investigations Directorate continue working at the scene, they are seizing the fragments of the building and gas supply system, to submit them to explosive technical experts for analyses to find the epicenter and the exact cause of the explosion. The investigators have already assigned forensic medical examinations, are questioning the affected, including the injured in hospitals. Other investigating operations are also underway to find all the circumstances of the incident.

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