

Incident Assessment

Incident ID	CIV0556
Location	Hospital No.1, Osnovianskyi district, Kharkiv, Kharkiv Oblast
Coordinates	49.9281, 36.2570 ¹
Date	25/03/2022
Time	Possibly around 07:45 EET and likely before 09:00 EET

Description of the Events

On 25/03/2022, likely prior to 09:00 EET, a strike was carried out on the southern district of Kharkiv, Osnovyansky. The statement made by Kharkiv police reports the time of attack to be “around 07:45” EET. Several people were reported to be injured and killed.

Key Findings

- On 25/03/2022, a strike hit the southern district of Kharkiv, Osnovianskyi. The strike was first reported to have killed four people, rising to five on the following day.
- The strike is visually confirmed to have impacted close to the Hospital No.1 in Kharkiv Osnovianskyi district.
- The Kharkiv police and the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutors Office, reported that at the time of attack, humanitarian aid was being distributed at the hospital.
- The incident was reported to have occurred “around 07:45 EET”. Analysis based on open sources indicates it had to have occurred prior to 09:00 EET.
- A munition remnant seen in one of the source videos appears to be a cargo section of a 9M27K rocket.
- The total area affected by the submunitions could not be identified; however, open sources suggest it may have been as far away as the “Metro” supermarket 600 m to the north-east.
- No military presence was identified in the area through open sources.

Description of Searches

An internet search was carried out to obtain more information relating to the incident. Searches were conducted using Google, Telegram and Twitter and their respective search functions.

¹ <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CUXaQWR9uTTiqEP66>

Searches were limited to general keywords of the location (such as: “Osnovianskiy” and “Kharkiv”), as well as specific search terms (such as: shelling of Hospital No.1, shelling of Kharkiv airport, munition related searches for Osnovianskiy district and Kharkiv).

Searches were time limited to 24/03/2022 - 28/03/2022 for the majority of the research. However, some searches were conducted with no time limit in order to obtain any other relevant information, which may have been published at a later date.

Searches were conducted in English, Ukrainian and Russian.

Background Summary of Significant Descriptive Content

Media Reports

- [Strana](#)²: Publication includes a statement by the Kharkiv Police. The statement reads: “at 7:45 am on 25th of March a strike was carried out on a hospital, where humanitarian aid was being distributed.”
- [Kharkiv Today](#)³: Publication includes reference to the Prosecutors Office.

NGO Reports

- [Nuremberg 2022](#)⁴: Report from a Ukrainian NGO, collecting evidence on war crimes.

Other

- [Statement](#)⁵ from the Head of Kharkiv Administration.

Analysis of Examinable Content

[Source 1](#)⁶: A Telegram post from 25/03/2022, 18:55 EET. The post includes a video (S1V1) showing a munition remnant and what appears to be an injured or a deceased person. It also includes a close up image (S1I1) of the purported munition fragments. Hospital No.1 can be seen in the background of the video.

²

<https://strana.today/news/383287-v-kharkove-rossijskie-okkupanty-obstreljali-horodskuju-polikliniku-.html>

³

<https://2day.kh.ua/ru/kharkow/iz-za-obstrelov-zhilykh-domov-v-osnovyanskom-rayone-pogibli-pyat-chelovek>

⁴

<https://www.nurnberg2022.org/en/post/osnovianskiy-neighbourhood-kharkiv-five-civilians-were-killed-due-to-the-russian-troops-shelling>

⁵ <https://t.me/synegubov/2733>

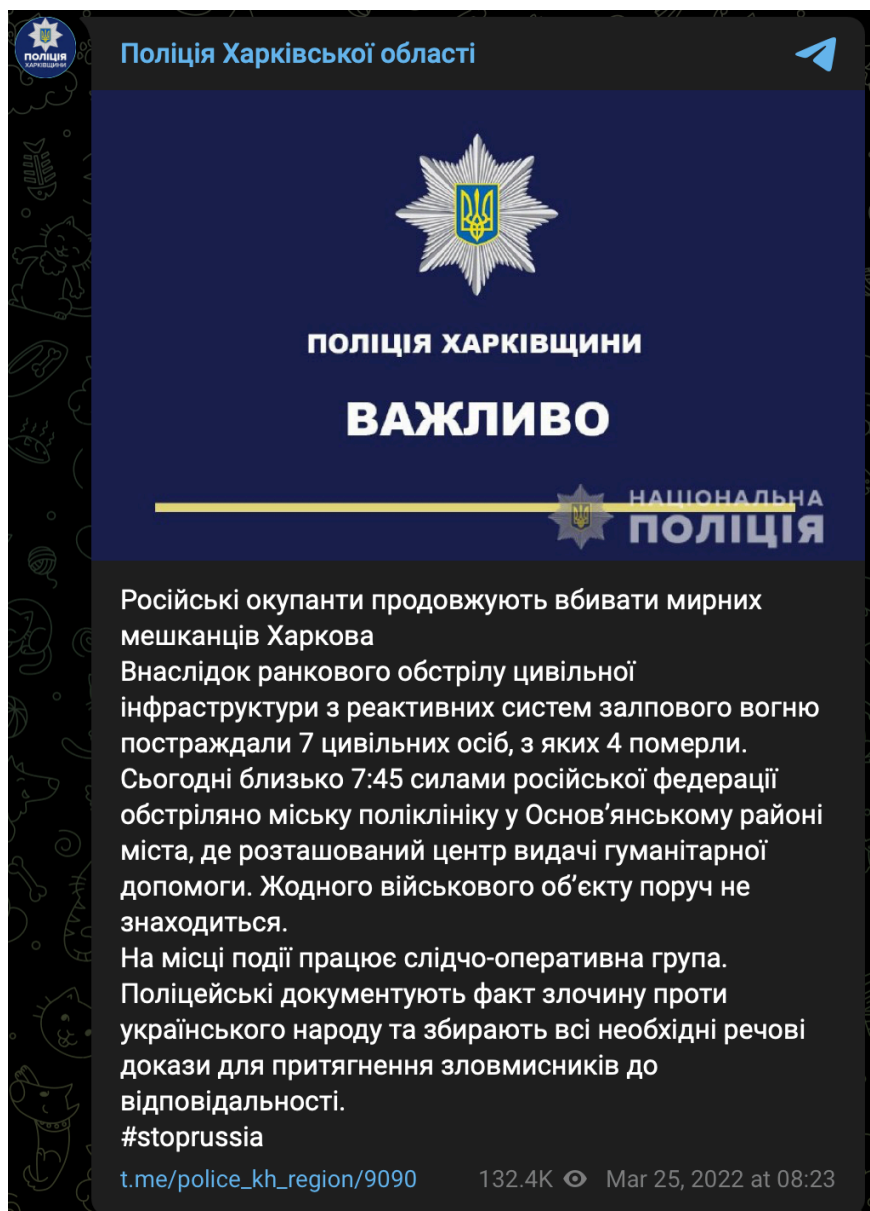
⁶ <https://t.me/truexanewsua/36653>



Screenshot of a Telegram post (Source 1) with S1V1 showing area near attack and S1I1 showing munition fragments marked accordingly.

Source 2⁷: A Telegram post from 25/03/2022, 10:23 EET. According to a statement by Kharkiv Regional Police, a strike occurred around 07:45 EET, wounding seven people, four of whom died. Notably, the statement reads that at this time humanitarian aid was being distributed at Hospital No.1.

⁷ https://t.me/police_kh_region/9090



Screenshot of a Telegram post (Source 2) containing a statement made by the Kharkiv regional police on Telegram.

- **Source 3**⁸: A Telegram post from 26/03/2022, 14:11 EET. A statement on the incident made by the Regional Office of the Prosecutor of Kharkiv region. The post includes six images (S3I1, S3I2, S3I3, S3I4, S3I5, S3I6) relating to the incident, depicting aftermath of a strike and what appears to be injured or deceased individuals. It states that five people died as a result of the attack.

⁸ https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3165



Харківська обласна прокуратура



◆ Під час обстрілу Харкова російськими окупантами загинуло 5 осіб - розпочато розслідування

✍ За процесуального керівництва Харківської обласної прокуратури слідчими СВ Управління СБ України в Харківській області розпочато досудове розслідування у кримінальному провадженні за фактом порушення законів та звичаїв війни, поєднаного з умисним вбивством (ч. 2 ст. 438 КК України).

За даними слідства, 25 березня 2022 року військовослужбовці ЗС РФ здійснили артилерійські обстріли по житлових будинках у Основ'янському районі м. Харкова.

Внаслідок цього загинуло 5 мирних мешканців.

Крім того, пошкоджено будинки та транспортні засоби.

Досудове розслідування триває.

✂ Харківська обласна прокуратура

Screenshot of a Telegram post (Source 3) by the Regional Prosecutors Office of Kharkiv containing six images marked accordingly (S3I1, S3I2, S3I3, S3I4, S3I5, S3I6).

Questions to Investigate

Where Was the Incident?

Based on S1V1, the incident was geolocated to have occurred in the vicinity of [49.9281, 36.2570](#)⁹. In the video, a person who appears to be injured or killed is visible along with the Hospital No.1 in the background and a munition remnant nearby.



Top: Screenshots taken from [Google Street View](#)¹⁰ with highlighted features (Credit: Google Maps).

Bottom: Composite panorama image of S1V1 with matching features.

The images above were taken by Google Maps Street View in July 2015. While some features appear to have changed since the street view was captured, such as the road, pavement and some trees, the location is still clearly identifiable based on the position and design of the buildings, the brick tower and the large tree, which all match those seen in the S1V1. These changes can be viewed on historic imagery available on Google Earth Pro.

⁹ <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CUXaQWR9uTTiqEP66>

¹⁰ <https://goo.gl/maps/gYdnsu5oLebHuWkj9>



Top: Panoramic composite image of S1V1. Bottom: Screenshot from Google Maps [satellite view](#), showing point of view of S1V1 (Credit: Google Maps).

It is worth noting that a nearby supermarket “Metro” [was reportedly](#)¹¹ shelled on this day, as was the Kharkiv International Airport. These incidents have been reported together; however, they are separate incidents occurring at different times. It is unclear if the aforementioned strike on the “Metro” supermarket is related to the one on the hospital; while the strike on the airport is reported to have occurred during the night prior and is too far away to be considered related.

The same report quotes the Head of the Kharkiv Administration:

“According to him [Oleg Sinegubov, the head of the regional military administration (OVA)], the Metro supermarket was under fire in the morning. There are no details about the damage.

¹¹

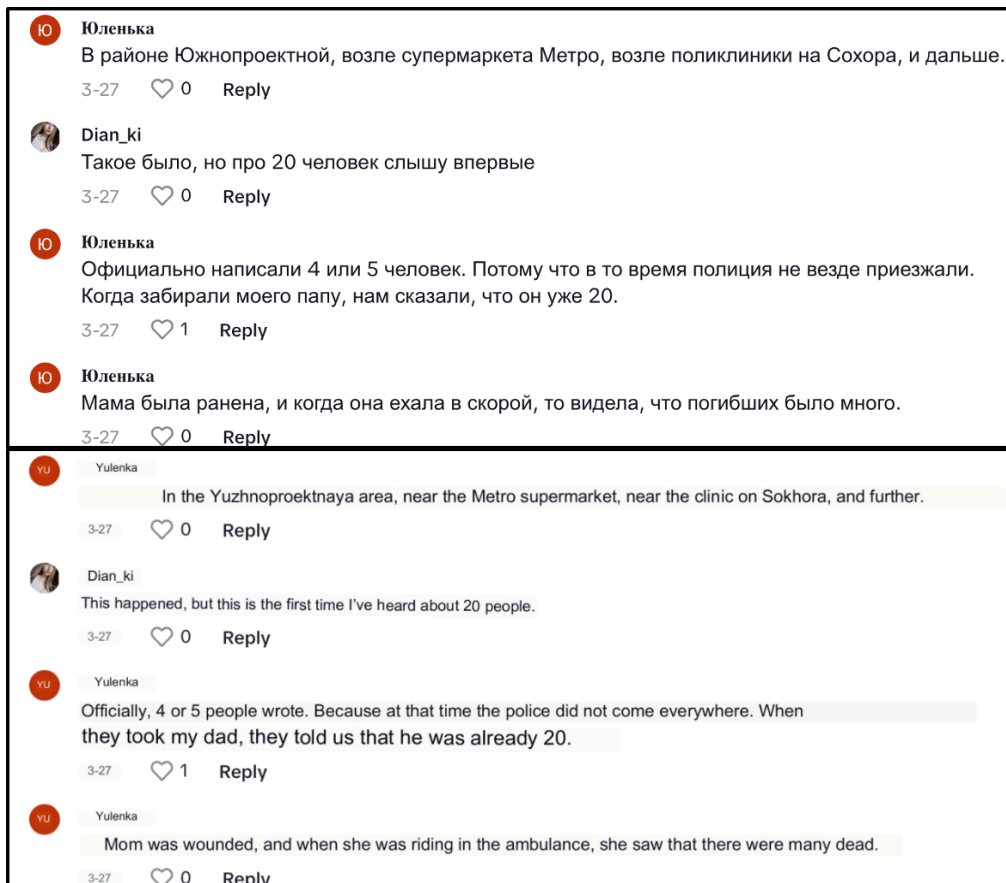
<https://korrespondent.net/city/kharkov/4460303-v-kharkove-obstrelialy-aeroport-polyklynku-y-super-market>

Also last night, the invaders twice shelled the terminal of Kharkiv airport with multiple rocket launchers. And today, March 25, in the morning, the Russian military shelled a polyclinic in the Osnovyansky district of Kharkiv, where the center for issuing humanitarian aid is located. Seven people were injured, four of whom were killed.”

It is important to note that the strike on the Kharkiv International Airport was [reported](#)¹² by Telegram channels to have occurred during the night of 24-25/03/2022, prior to any reports of the strike which impacted the vicinity of the hospital.

However, no footage or images relating to the strike on the “Metro” supermarket was identified.

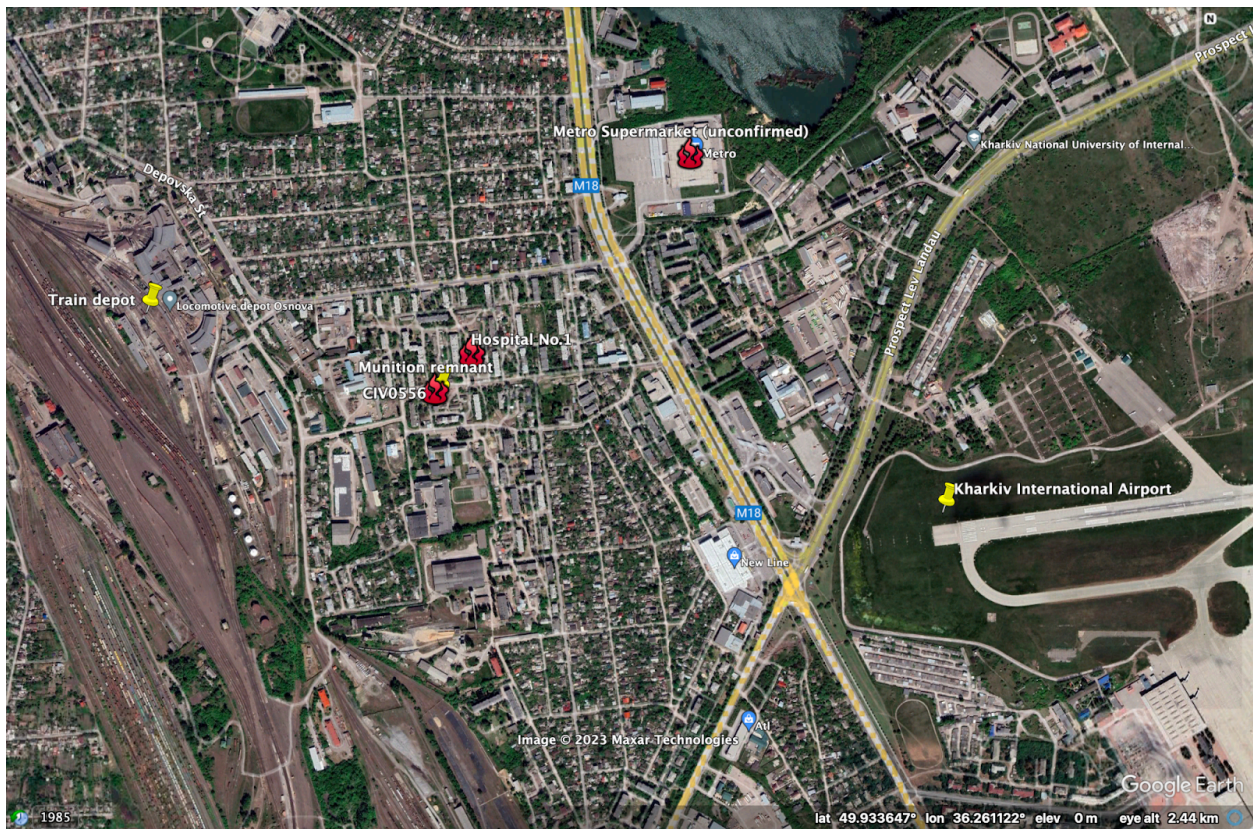
Comments regarding the strike on the hospital were identified on TikTok, stating that the strike on the hospital also impacted the area around the supermarket on the morning of 25/03/2022. The comment specifies the Hospital on Sokhora street, which was identified as the location of S1V1. Notably, the comment states that the actual numbers of killed were higher than the reported numbers. It was not possible to verify the comments using only open sources.



Top: Screenshot of a comment made on [TikTok](#)¹³, mentioning the “Metro” supermarket and a higher casualty number. Bottom: The same comment translated into English using Google Translate and checked by a Ukrainian speaker.

¹² <https://t.me/truexanewsua/36498>

¹³ <https://www.tiktok.com/@kharkiv13/video/7214196503621946629>



Screenshot from Google Earth, showing incident locations (Credit: Google/Maxar Technologies).

While the strike was visually confirmed to have occurred around Hospital No.1 ([49.9281, 36.2570](https://maps.app.goo.gl/CUXaQWR9uTTiqEP66)¹⁴), where a munition remnant was found, the exact area affected by the submunitions is unknown.

When Was the Incident?

The incident was first reported by the Kharkiv Police (Source 2). In their statement they claim that:

“Today (25/03/2022), around 7:45 a.m., Russian Federation forces shelled a city polyclinic in the Osnovyansky district of the city, where the humanitarian aid distribution center is located.”

A statement by the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor’s office was made on the following day (26/03/2022), but this statement does not include the time of the attack. The [statement](#)¹⁵ reads:

“According to the investigation, on 25 March 2022, servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces fired artillery at residential buildings in the Osnovianskyi district of Kharkiv.”

¹⁴ <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CUXaQWR9uTTiqEP66>

¹⁵ https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3165

S1V1 is the only identified footage relating to the incident showing clear shadows. These can be used to determine the time of filming of the video. It is worth noting that in the video an ambulance is already present at the scene, hence the time of recording is likely some time after the actual strike.

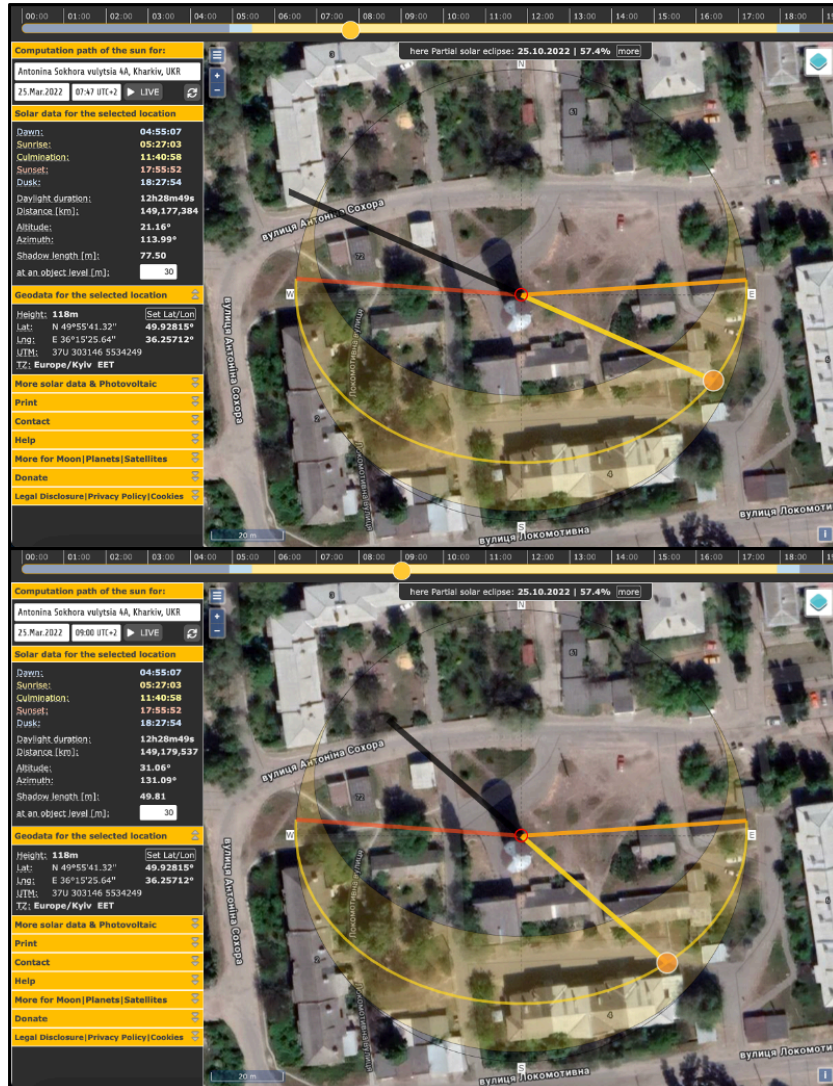
The fall of the tower's shadow on the kerb can be used to estimate the time of filming. The furthest left and right fall of shadow was assessed based upon where the shadows appear to fall on the curvature of the kerb. This assessment indicated azimuths of between 114 and 131 degrees.



Left: A still from S1V1 depicting fall of shadow. Right: Assessed range of fall of shadow (Credit: Google/Maxar Technologies).

By using [SunCalc](https://www.suncalc.org/)¹⁶ and applying the azimuths of between 114 and 131 degrees, the indicated time of filming is between 07:47 and 09:00 AM.

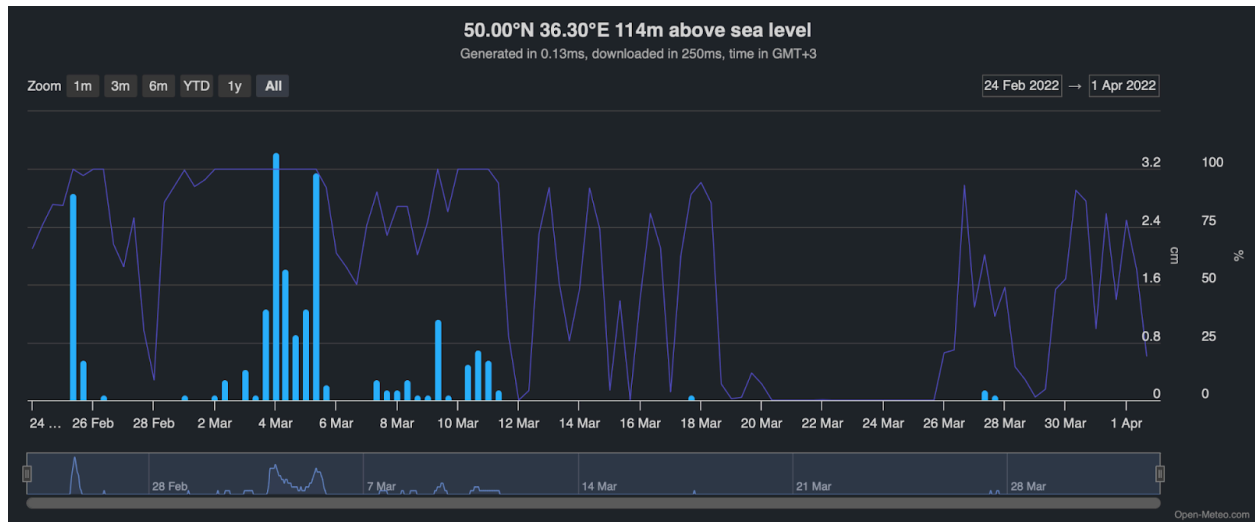
¹⁶ <https://www.suncalc.org/>



S1V1 shows little to no cloud cover and does not show any snow. Historic weather [data](#)¹⁷ shows no cloud cover on 25/03/2022, but shows that there was a cloud cover on the next day, 26/03/2022.

¹⁷

https://open-meteo.com/en/docs/historical-weather-api#latitude=49.9808&longitude=36.2527&start_date=2022-02-24&end_date=2022-04-01&hourly=snowfall,cloudcover&timezone=Europe%2FMoscow



Snowfall and cloud cover data for Kharkiv for March 2022 (Credit: [OpenMeteo](https://open-meteo.com/)¹⁸).

Based on this, it can be established that the attack likely occurred prior to 09:00 EET on 25/03/2022, and possibly at “around 07:45 EET”, as reported by the Kharkiv police.

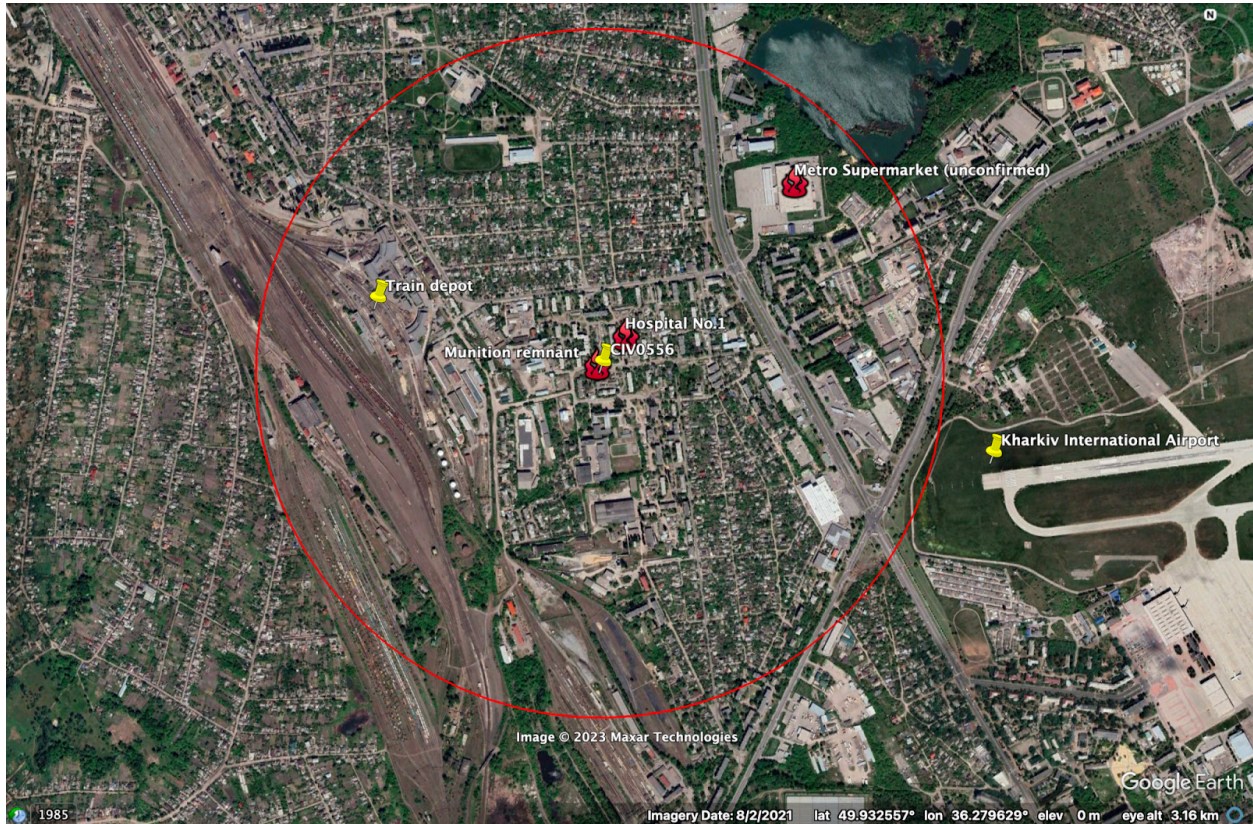
Who and What Was Present?

While reports indicated that the strike impacted over a large area (mixed use residential and commercial), civilian deaths were only reported from the location of Hospital No.1. Ukrainian media reported that at the moment of the strike humanitarian aid was being distributed at the hospital, and five people were officially reported as killed.

A search was conducted within a 1 km radius of the incident. No military locations could be identified within this area on satellite imagery or mapping applications. Notably, the Kharkiv International Airport is located just over 1 km to the east. Other notable locations are the train lines and depot to the west and south.

¹⁸

https://open-meteo.com/en/docs/historical-weather-api#latitude=49.9808&longitude=36.2527&start_date=2022-02-24&end_date=2022-04-01&hourly=snowfall,cloudcover&timezone=Europe%2FMoscow



Screenshot taken from Google Earth Pro, showing an area of 1 km radius from the incident (Credit: Google/Maxar Technologies).

What Kind of Munition Was Used?

The Regional Prosecutors Office of Kharkiv published a series of images related to the attack on Telegram (Source 3). One image (S3I5) shows a crater, characteristics of which are consistent with those left by a smaller munition, such as a cluster munition.



Left: [Reference imagery](#)¹⁹ of a crater consistent with a 9N235 submunition (Credit: Human Rights Watch). Right: S3I5, showing a crater after the incident.

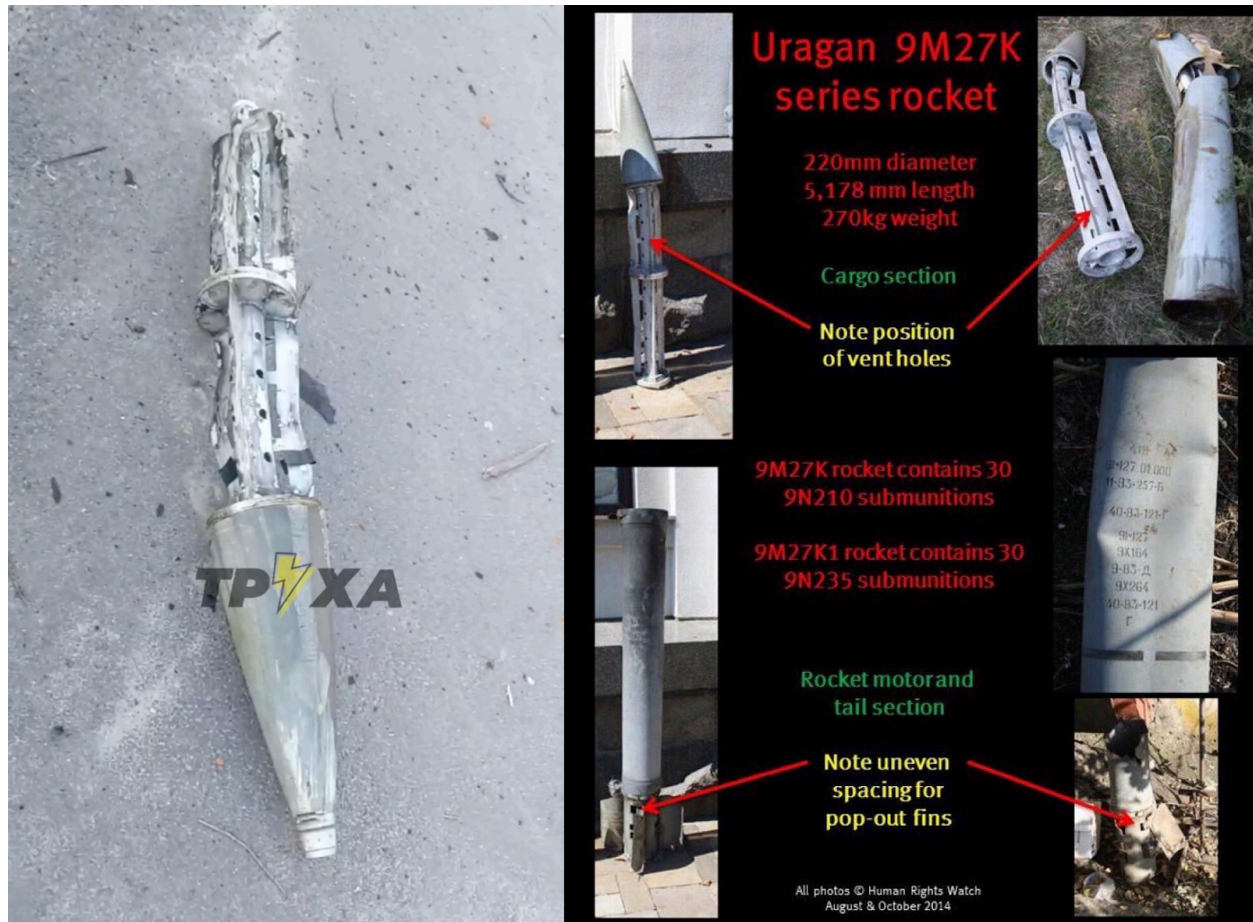
Within S1V1, immediately next to a person lying on the ground, there are markings on the grass which may be consistent with such a crater.



Still from S1V1 depicting what may be a crater caused by a 9N235 submunition.

¹⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/03/04/ukraine-cluster-munitions-launched-kharkiv-neighborhoods>

Furthermore, both S1V1 and S1I1 show munition remnants. The remnant seen in S1V1 was identified as being consistent with a 9M27K rocket. Specifically, the remnant seen appears to be the cargo section of a 9M27K. The shape of the remnant closely matches the conical shape seen in the reference imagery. The body of the remnant also features evenly spaced vent holes, a characteristic of a 9M27K rocket.



Left: Munition remnant seen in S1V1. Right: A 9M27K [recognition card](#)²⁰.

S1I1 depicts fragments which appear to be consistent with 9N210 or 9N235 submunitions. Specifically, the squared black fragments appear to match the stabilization fins, while the metallic pellets are consistent with the fragmentation of these munitions. Both of these submunitions can be [payloads](#)²¹ in 9M27K rockets.

²⁰ <https://x.com/MarkHiznay/status/1655703288338153474?s=20>

²¹ <https://armamentresearch.com/russian-9n235-submunitions-documented-in-ukraine-2022/>



Left: [Recognition card](#)²² of a 9N235 submunition. Note that 9N210 and 9N235 submunitions are almost identical and can only be differentiated by their external markings and fragmentation. Right: *S1I1*, depicting fragments reportedly recovered at the site of the incident.

Timeline of the Incident

On 25/03/2022, likely prior to 09:00 EET, a strike was carried out on the southern district of Kharkiv, Osnovyansky. The statement made by Kharkiv police reports the time of attack to be “around 07:45” EET. Furthermore, two other strikes were reported in the vicinity, specifically: a strike which reportedly impacted around “Metro” supermarket on the morning of 25/03/2022, and a separate shelling of the Kharkiv International Airport on the night of the 24-25/03/2022.

Statements from Parties of the Conflict

Ukraine

- 1) Kharkiv Regional Prosecutors Office statement on [Telegram](#)²³:
“According to the investigation, on 25 March 2022, servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces fired artillery at residential buildings in the Osnovianskyi district of Kharkiv. As a result, 5 civilians were killed. In addition, houses and vehicles were damaged. The pre-trial investigation is ongoing.”
- 2) Statement from Kharkiv Regional Police on [Telegram](#)²⁴:
“As a result of the morning shelling of civilian infrastructure with multiple rocket launchers, 7 civilians were injured, 4 of whom died. Today, at around 7:45 a.m,

²² <https://x.com/MarkHiznay/status/1655703288338153474?s=20>

²³ https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3165

²⁴ https://t.me/police_kh_region/9090

Russian Federation forces shelled a city polyclinic in the Osnovyansky district of the city, where the humanitarian aid distribution center is located. No military objects are located nearby.”

- 3) A statement from the Head of Kharkiv Region on [Telegram](#)²⁵:

“This morning, in the Osnovyansky district of Kharkiv, a city polyclinic where humanitarian aid was being distributed was shelled with artillery and Grad rockets. Seven people were injured, four of them died.”

Russia

No statements regarding this attack were identified through open source research.

Conclusion

On 25/03/2022, a strike, apparently using cluster munitions, impacted a southern district of Kharkiv. A statement from the Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor, states that five people were killed in the strike. The exact time of the attack could not be confirmed; however, analysis of the footage that was posted later suggests the strike had to occur prior to 09:00 EET on 25/03/2022. The strike is a separate incident from the attack on the Kharkiv International airport the previous night; however, it may be linked to the attack on the “Metro” supermarket which was reported on the same day.

The type of weapon used in the attack was likely a 9M27K cluster munition rocket. The direction of origin could not be accurately assessed using only open sources due to the lack of embedded rocket motors or cargo sections.

Further Action

- Obtain high resolution satellite imagery to assess the impact of the strike in confirmed locations and investigate other potential areas of impact.
- Conduct a further social media search with the aim of obtaining impact footage and other relevant footage.

²⁵ <https://t.me/synegubov/2733>