

Ukraine – Escalating Strikes in Kyiv

January 26, 2026



Summary

Ukraine continues to face sustained Russian attacks on energy infrastructure, urban centres, and critical facilities. Since early January, Kyiv has experienced repeated strikes, likely aimed at leveraging the harsh winter conditions. On January 24, a large-scale missile and drone attack on Kyiv's energy system caused nationwide outages. While fighting remains focused in eastern and northeastern regions, Kyiv continues to face disruptions, creating a volatile environment for residents and visitors.

Recent events and developments

Over the past week, Russia launched over 1,700 attack drones, 1,380 guided bombs, and 69 missiles against Ukraine. On January 25, Ukrainian officials reported that approximately 80% of Ukraine was subject to emergency power cuts and at least 1,676 apartment buildings in Kyiv remained without heating, with at least one person killed and nine injured nationwide over the previous 24 hours. As a result, Ukrainian President Zelenskyy called on Western allies to provide more air defence support as half a million Kyiv residents face evacuation while sub-zero temperatures and repeated Russian strikes hinder repair crews from restoring heating and electricity. The night before, on January 24, Russian forces launched a large-scale missile and drone attack on Ukraine's energy system, striking Kyiv and leaving approximately 1.2 million properties without power nationwide during severe winter temperatures. Russian attacks on Kyiv coincided with ongoing discussions in Abu Dhabi involving Ukrainian, Russian, and U.S. negotiators regarding potential pathways to end the conflict. On January 23, Russian forces and military bloggers claimed further territorial advances in northeastern and eastern Ukraine, including towards Siversk, while Ukrainian authorities reported continued drone and missile strikes affecting civilian and energy infrastructure. On January 20, Russian drone attacks targeted the Dnipro district, Kyiv, injuring two people and damaging residential buildings, infrastructure facilities, a business, and cars. On January 15, Ukrainian authorities declared a state of emergency in the energy sector amid ongoing Russian strikes and temperatures in Kyiv dropping to around minus 17°C. On January 9, Russian airstrikes on Kyiv killed four people and damaged a building housing the Qatari embassy, marking an earlier escalation in strikes on the capital. On the same day, Russia confirmed it launched a hypersonic Oreshnik missile overnight, firing at Lviv, a city 70km from the border with Poland. On January 5, President Zelensky announced that an overnight Russian drone attack struck a hospital in Kyiv City, killing at least one person and injuring four others.

Impact assessment

The security situation in Kyiv and across Ukraine continues to present heightened risks for travellers, employees, and business operations. Russian strikes have increasingly targeted critical infrastructure, residential areas, and urban centres, creating frequent disruptions to electricity, heating, and transport. In Kyiv, the entire city faces the risk of air attacks on critical infrastructure. High-risk districts, including Shevchenkivskyi (the centre), Sviatoshynskyi, Solomianskyi, Holosiivskyi, Obolonskyi, and Dniproviskyi, are most frequently targeted by drone and missile strikes. These districts are highly likely to experience operational interruptions, including sudden power outages, limited public transport, and potential delays at airports and railway stations. Severe winter temperatures, with lows reaching minus 17°C in the city, combined with intermittent heating, increase the risk of exposure for visitors, especially those unfamiliar with local coping measures. Central Kyiv hotels, office buildings, and suburban residential areas such as Holosiivskyi and Podil may be more directly affected due to repeated targeting of urban infrastructure. While direct targeting of foreign nationals remains unlikely, indirect impacts, ranging from building damage to temporary loss of essential services, including attacks on hospitals, remain significant. Outside Kyiv, cities like Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lviv, and Odesa face similar threats, particularly to energy and industrial infrastructure, though the scale of disruption is generally lower than in the capital. Humanitarian and emergency response services are active but may be slowed by ongoing attacks and harsh weather, potentially affecting the speed of medical and logistical support in the event of incidents. The likelihood of further drone, missile, or aerial attacks remains elevated given Russia's operational focus on energy and urban targets, with continued pressure on residential and public infrastructure. Overall, Kyiv remains a volatile environment where service disruptions and localised incidents are probable due to ongoing military activity and evolving diplomatic dynamics related to the war. While travel to and within the city is possible, visitors and personnel should expect interruptions to routine services.

Advice from Forth Global

- Closely monitor local air-raid alerts and official communications, particularly when operating or staying in central Kyiv.
- Be prepared for intermittent power, heating, and transport disruptions. Ensure travel and work schedules are flexible.
- Familiarise yourself with nearby shelters, safe rooms, and alternative accommodation options in case of service outages.
- Carry essential items, including charged power banks, extra warm layers, and any personal medications, as heating, electricity, and access to pharmacies may be disrupted during winter conditions.

Customised advice

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