

13 missing after explosion in munitions dump



Smoke rising in the wake of the explosion (source: [MDC/X](#))

On Tuesday, the Cuban Ministry of Defense (Minfar) [provided information](#) about several detonations in an ammunition depot in the town of [Melones](#), in the municipality of Rafael Freyre in the eastern Cuban province of Holguín. According to the report, a fire broke out in the depot at night, causing several explosions.

The initial report stated that there was no danger to the population. However, the civil defense evacuated 361 residents from the surrounding area as a precaution.

Further details emerged during the course of the day. According to these, 13 members of the army have been missing since the disaster. They were apparently in the immediate vicinity of the explosions when they tried to control the fire. The families of the missing have already been informed, the Ministry of Defense announced.

The Holguín Provincial Defense Council has begun investigating the incident together with a commission from the ministry. In addition to the army, civil defense and the interior ministry, party and government representatives are also on site.

Witnesses report that they were awakened in the early morning hours by detonations in the disused mines, which now serve as an ammunition depot. There is no information yet on possible injuries among the civilian population.

How the accident could have happened is still unclear. The Ministry of Defense announced that it would keep the public informed as the investigation progresses. The search for the missing and the securing of the scene of the accident are ongoing. The affected residents are in shelters and being cared for by civil defense. ([Cubaheute](#))