

## Collapse in the "Guiteras" chimney



Salvage work on the chimney of the Antonio Guiteras power plant in Matanzas (Source: [Periodico Girón](#))

**Update (9.04):** After a 16-hour search, the trapped person was recovered dead Sunday morning, bringing the death toll from the accident to two.

The collapse of a partition wall in the area of a chimney of the large power plant "Antonio Guiteras" in Matanzas has left one person dead. According to [Cuban media reports](#), four workers were buried in the accident on Friday afternoon, two of whom have since been rescued alive. The recovery of the third person is still ongoing at the moment.

As reported by local TV station TV Yurmurí, the men were working at the bottom of the chimney, in the area known as the ash pan, where they were extracting soot and carrying out other cleaning work, when the seven-meter-high wall collapsed at around 2:30 p.m. The injured workers were working on behalf of the state-owned specialist chimney repair and height maintenance company.

Rescue services and firefighters moved out immediately after the accident and began a recovery operation. Later arrived the first party secretary of Matanzas, Susely Morfa González, Governor Mario Sabines Lorenzo and Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy. As TV Yumuri reports, the two recovered alive have been taken to the nearby Faustino Pérez Hospital in the provincial capital, where they are currently being treated for head trauma and fractures.

Completed in 1988, Antonio Guiteras is the country's youngest and most powerful power plant, but bad maintenance caused a series of shutdowns in recent years. Last year, the reactor had to be repeatedly taken off the grid as a result of several accidents. Since

February 20, the heavy oil power plant has been undergoing an overhaul lasting several months, during which around 1200 people are working on the site every day. ([Cubaheute](#))