

Since the beginning of 2022, multiple unusual deaths of Russian businesspeople or high officials, sometimes including their family members, have occurred under what some sources suggest were suspicious circumstances. Most are known critics of the Kremlin and Putin



Viktor Yushchenko  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ukrainian president (2005-2010)  
was left with significant facial scarring after the poisoning in 2004. In Ukraine. Still living (2023)



Sergei Skripal (living 2023) and daughter Yulia  
Former Russian military officer and double-agent for British intelligence, was poisoned in the city of Salisbury in 2018  
Along with his daughter Yulia. Both now living in hiding



Alexander Litvinenko  
Former KGB, British-naturalized Russian defector  
Died in London in 2008 after sipping a cup of green tea laced with radioactive properties

## PUTIN'S POISON PLAYBOOK

### CHEMICAL WEAPONS CASE STUDY 2020 NAVALNY POISONING

#### DENY

Russian officials denied poisoning political opposition figure Aleksey Navalny.

#### DISTRACT

Russian media spread a variety of alternative explanations to distract from the Russian government's role in the poisoning.

#### DEFLECT

Russian officials attempted to shift the blame to their accusers and portray Russia as a victim of a Western plot.



## PUTIN'S POISON PLAYBOOK

### CHEMICAL WEAPONS CASE STUDY 2018 SKRIPAL POISONINGS

#### DENY

Russian authorities denied poisoning former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in the U.K. in March 2018.

#### DISTRACT

Russian media and Russian government officials claimed the poisonings were an invented provocation for an ulterior motive, such as to divert attention from Brexit.

#### DEFLECT

Russian government officials tried to cast blame on the U.K. (among others) for the poisoning.



## Example of weird facts

- Dan Rapoport.
  - Born in the USSR, to US with parents at age 11. Settled in Texas.
  - Graduated from college, then moved to Russia in post-Soviet days. Made a fortune as a stockbroker.
  - 2012, decided to leave Russia, saying life there was become “unbearable and disgusting”. 2016, divorced, moved to Kiev
  - 2018, becomes known that he was behind a fake facebook account which was critical of Russia, wherein he claimed to be a Pentagon analyst. This fictional character was published in Russia and Ukrainian media. The posts were pro-US, critical of Obama’s “lukewarm strength” toward Russia, and condemning of Putin.



- Death:




The suspicions began when the news of Rapoport’s death first broke on the Telegram channel of a former editor of Russian Tattler, via a convoluted story that claimed Rapoport’s dog was let loose with a suicide note and cash attached to him.

↳ Because intelligence services often put out information through gossip sites, the location raised antennae. “How the hell did she [the ex-Tattler editor] learn about Dan’s alleged suicide?” asks Vlad Burlutsky, a Russian expat who met Rapoport through his work supporting Navalny.

↳ In a [Russian media interview](#), Rapoport’s wife denied the story about the note — and the suicide, saying her husband had been making plans and that she expected to be in Washington to see him. (The police report also makes no mention of a note or a dog.)

# Mystery Deaths inside Russia, January 2022 – May 2023

Name	Age at death	Position	Date of death	Count of deaths	Place body was discovered	Circumstances
Leonid Shulman	60	Director of Transport of Gazprom <sup>[13][5][4]</sup>	30 January 2022		 Bathroom of a residence in Leningrad Oblast <sup>[4]</sup>	Suicide note found next to his body <sup>[4]</sup>
Igor Nosov	43	CEO of the Far East and Arctic Development Corporation (KRDV) and former Deputy governor of Nizhny Novgorod Oblast	8 February 2022		 Moscow	Reportedly suffered a stroke <sup>[14]</sup>
Alexander Tyulakov	61	Deputy General Director of the Unified Settlement Center of Gazprom <sup>[13][5][4]</sup>	25 February 2022		 Garage of a residence in Saint Petersburg <sup>[4]</sup>	Suicide note found on his body <sup>[4]</sup>
Mikhail Watford	66	Businessman <sup>[13][15][5][4]</sup>	28 February 2022		 Garage of a residence in Surrey, England <sup>[4]</sup>	British authorities have not found evidence of a crime <sup>[4]</sup>
Vasily Melnikov	43	CEO and owner of Medstorm <sup>[13][5][4]</sup>	23 March 2022		 Apartment in Nizhny Novgorod <sup>[4]</sup>	Wife and two sons found dead beside him <sup>[4]</sup>
Vladislav Avayev	51	Former Vice President of Gazprombank <sup>[13][5][16]</sup>	18 April 2022		 Apartment in Moscow <sup>[4]</sup>	Wife and 13-year-old daughter found dead beside him <sup>[4]</sup>
Sergey Protosenya	55	Former Deputy Chairman of Novatek. <sup>[13][5][16][4]</sup>	19 April 2022		 Garden of a residence in Lloret de Mar, Spain <sup>[4]</sup>	Hanged from a handrail; <sup>[17]</sup> wife and daughter found dead in their beds with blunt axe wounds <sup>[17]</sup> and stab wounds <sup>[4]</sup>
Andrei Krukovsky	37	General Director of the Estosadok <i>Krasnaya Polyana</i> , a ski resort owned by Gazprom <sup>[5][16]</sup>	1 May 2022		 Below a cliff near the Achipse Fortress [ru] in Sochi <sup>[5][16]</sup>	Reportedly "fell off a cliff" while hiking to Achipse Fortress [ru] <sup>[16]</sup>
Alexander Subbotin	43 <sup>[18]</sup>	Board member of Lukoil <sup>[19][5]</sup>	8 May 2022		 Basement of a Jamaican shaman's residence in Moscow <sup>[4]</sup>	Reportedly died from a "drug-induced heart attack" during a shamanic ritual, though critics allege "toad poison" <sup>[4]</sup>
Yuri Voronov	61	CEO of Astra Shipping, a subcontractor of Gazprom <sup>[5]</sup>	4 July 2022		 Swimming pool of a residence in Leningrad Oblast <sup>[5]</sup>	Gunshot wounds to the head, pistol found next to his body <sup>[5]</sup>




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Dan Rapoport	52	Businessman <sup>[20]</sup>	14 August 2022		 2400 M Street NW, Washington, D.C., <b>United St</b>	Found in the street after an apparent fall from his high rise apartment building <sup>[20]</sup>
Ravil Maganov	67	Chair of Lukoil <sup>[5]</sup>	1 September 2022		 Below a window of the Kremlin Hospital, Moscow <sup>[21]</sup>	Reportedly hospitalised for heart problems and depression, then "fell out of a window" <sup>[21][22]</sup>
Ivan Pechorin	39	Director of Aviation of the Russian Far East and Arctic Development Corporation (KRDV)	10 September 2022 <sup>[23][24]</sup>		 On a beach in Beregovoi, 160 km (99 mi) from Vladivostok	Drowned at Cape Ignatyev, Vladivostok; body found washed up in Beregovoe two days later, <sup>[24]</sup> allegedly fell from his boat <sup>[25]</sup>
Vladimir Sungorkin [ru]	68	Editor-in-chief of <i>Komsomolskaya Pravda</i>	14 September 2022 <sup>[26]</sup>		 Roshchino [ru], Khabarovsk District, Khabarovsk Krai	Reportedly suffered a stroke and suffocated while on the way to lunch <sup>[26]</sup>
Anatoly Gerashchenko [ru]	72	Former Head of Moscow Aviation Institute	21 September 2022 <sup>[27][28]</sup>		 Stairway within the Moscow Aviation Institute <sup>[27][28]</sup>	Reportedly <b>fell down a flight of stairs</b> inside the institute <sup>[27][28]</sup>
Pavel Pchel'nikov	52	Director of Digital Logistics, a Russian Railways subsidiary <sup>[29][30]</sup>	28 September 2022 <sup>[30]</sup>		 On the balcony of an apartment in Moscow <sup>[29][30]</sup>	Allegedly shot himself on the balcony of his apartment <sup>[29][30]</sup>
Nikolay Petrunin	46	Deputy of the State Duma	12 October 2022		 Unnamed hospital in Moscow	Alleged complications of COVID-19 <sup>[31][32]</sup>
Nikolai Mushegian	29	Co-founder of MakerDAO, a cryptocurrency platform	28 October 2022		 Ashford Beach, Condado, San Juan, <b>Puerto Rico</b>	Drowned hours after tweeting. <sup>[33]</sup>
Vyacheslav Taran	53	Co-founder of Libertex, a cryptocurrency and foreign exchange market company	25 November 2022 <sup>[34]</sup>		 Villefranche-sur-Mer, French Riviera, <b>France</b>	Died in helicopter crash after taking off from Switzerland <sup>[35]</sup>
Vladimir Makei	64	Belarus foreign minister	26 November 2022		Unknown	"Makei's friends say he was painfully upset by the collapse of the course he was leading," reported

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Grigory Kochenov	41	Creative Director of Agima, an IT company	7 December 2022		 Volodarsky Street, Nizhny Novgorod	Nasha Niva, adding that those close to him did not believe he was murdered. <sup>[36]</sup> Reportedly fell to his death from his balcony while officials from the Investigative Committee executed a search warrant for his apartment <sup>[37]</sup>
Dmitriy Zelenov	50	Co-founder of Don-Story, a construction company	9 December 2022		 Antibes, French Riviera, France	Reportedly felt ill and fell over a railing and hit his head, later died in the emergency room without regaining consciousness <sup>[38][39]</sup>
Vladimir Bidenov	61	Business associate and travel companion of Pavel Antov	22 December 2022		 Hotel Sai International, Rayagada, Odisha, India	Died of heart problems, though reportedly had no prior history; <b>two days later his close companion died at the same hotel under suspicious circumstances</b> <sup>[40][41]</sup>
Alexander Buzakov [ru]	66	Director General of the Admiralty Shipyards	24 December 2022		 Saint Petersburg	Died suddenly the day after he attended the float-out ceremony of the new Lada class submarine Velikie Luki [ru]. No explanation was given on the cause of death <sup>[42]</sup>
Pavel Antov	65	Founder of Vladmirsky Standart, a meat processing company, and deputy (member) of the Legislative Assembly of Vladimir Oblast	24 December 2022		 Below a window of Hotel Sai International, Rayagada, Odisha, India	Fell out of window from Hotel Sai International; another Russian colleague, Vladimir Bidenov, died in the same hotel two days prior. <sup>[44][45]</sup>
Alexei Maslov	69	Former Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces and special representative of Uralvagonzavod. <sup>[46][47]</sup>	24 December 2022 <sup>[46]</sup>		 Burdenko Main Military Clinical Hospital, Moscow <sup>[citation needed]</sup>	Died "unexpectedly" in a military hospital, no cause given. <sup>[46]</sup>
Magomed Abdulaev	61	Former Chairman of the Government of the Republic of Dagestan [ru]	5 January 2023		 Makhachkala, Dagestan	Died at a hospital after being hit by a car while crossing a street <sup>[48]</sup>
Dmitry Pawochka	49	Former manager of Roscosmos, Sukhoi, Lukoil, Bank Menatep and Russdragmet,	26 January 2023		 17th floor of a building on Leningradsky Avenue, Moscow	<b>Burned alive after falling asleep with a lit cigarette</b> <sup>[49]</sup>
Vladimir Makarov	72	Former Russian police general in charge of cracking down on anti-war protesters.	13 February 2023		 At his suburban home	State-run TASS news agency reported him found dead, in an apparent suicide, following his dismissal by President Vladimir Putin. <sup>[50][51]</sup>

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Marina Yankina	58	Head of the financial support department of the Ministry of Defence for the Western Military District.	16 February 2023		northwest of Moscow  House on Zamshina Street, St. Petersburg	Found dead after falling from a window on the 16th-floor of a high-rise building. <sup>[52][53][54]</sup>
Viatcheslav Rovneiko	59	Oil magnate, co-founder of Urals Energy, co-owner of Belgian oil company Nafta (B) NV, director of Interregional Fuel Union; ex-KGB spy.	22 February 2023		 Unspecified gated village near Moscow	Found unconscious in his house; subsequent medical help could not save his life. <sup>[55][56]</sup>
Igor Shkurko	49	Deputy director of Yakutskenergo [ru].	4 April 2023		 Pre-trial detention center in Yakutsk	Found dead in his cell; allegedly suicide. <sup>[57]</sup>
Pyotr Kucherenko	46	State Secretary and Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation	20 May 2023		 Mineralnye Wody Airport	Died after falling ill on board a flight from Cuba to Russia. <sup>[58][59][60]</sup>

# The Russian Generals' Funeral March

 Marshall <b>Akhromeyev</b> suicide †1991 08 24	 colonel general <b>Gusev</b> car accident †1992 11 30	 real-admiral <b>Yegorkin</b> car accident †1993 02	 army general <b>Barannikov</b> heart attack †1995 07 21	 major general <b>Lomanov</b> car accident †1996 05 22	 major general <b>Volkov</b> shot himself †1996 06 18	 major general <b>Shipilov</b> jumped out a window †1997 05 05	 lieutenant general <b>Rokhlin</b> shot †1998 07 03	 major general <b>Baturin</b> car accident †1998 07	 major general <b>Shalaev</b> car accident †1999 08 07	 admiral <b>Ugryumov</b> heart attack †2001 05 31	 lieutenant general <b>Lebed</b> helicopter crash †2002 04 28
 army general <b>Ivashutin</b> died of old age †2002 06 04	 major general <b>Shevelev</b> burnt in a car †2002 09 19	 major general <b>Kolesnik</b> died †2002 10 30	 lieutenant general <b>Shatokhin</b> car accident †2002 11 05	 lieutenant general <b>Shifrin</b> combat actions †2002 11 15	 army general <b>Maksimov</b> died †2002 11 17	 major general <b>Gertsev</b> car accident †2002 09 11	 major general <b>Platoshin</b> shot †2002 02 09	 colonel general <b>Trofimov</b> shot †2005 04 10	 colonel general <b>Pechenkin</b> heart attack †2007 12	 colonel general <b>Vlasov</b> shot himself †2008 02 21	 colonel general <b>Troshch</b> car accident †2008 09 14
 major general <b>Lipinskiy</b> killed †2008 12 29	 major general <b>Rogachev</b> shot †2009 02 22	 major general <b>Petrov</b> poisoned †2009 06 21	 major general <b>Ivanov</b> died †2010 08 16	 major general <b>Chevrizov</b> shot himself †2010 10 04	 lieutenant general <b>Dubrov</b> train accident †2010 10 28	 lieutenant general <b>Debashvili</b> killed †2010 10 30	 colonel general <b>Achalov</b> died †2011 06 23	 major general <b>Morev</b> shot himself †2011 08 26	 lieutenant general <b>Shebarshin</b> shot himself †2012 03 30	 army general <b>Grachev</b> heart attack / poisoned †2012 09 23	 lieutenant general <b>Skopintsev</b> helicopter crash †2012 12
 major general <b>Bondarev</b> hanged himself †2013 04 19	 vice-admiral <b>Ustimenko</b> shot himself †2014 01 03	 real-admiral <b>Apanasenko</b> suicide †2014 02 07	 major general <b>Saplin</b> shot himself (cancer) †2014 04 18	 major general <b>Gudkov</b> shot himself †2014 06 08	 major general of police <b>Kolesnikov</b> jumped out a window †2014 06 16	 major general <b>Mishanin</b> shot himself †2014 07 21	 major general <b>Buchnev</b> shot himself †2015 01 03	 lieutenant general <b>Kudryavtsev</b> hanged himself †2015 01 06	 major general <b>Shushukin</b> heart attack †2015 12 27	 colonel general <b>Sergun</b> died †2016 01 03	 <b>Who is next?</b> The list is incomplete and can be updated

-  Regime of Boris Yeltsin
-  Regime of Vladimir Putin
-  Active phase of war conflict

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-  15 shot / shot himself
-  11 transport accident
-  2 hanging
-  16 other
-  3 possibly natural death

