



Turnow-Preilack: a substation hit, and no agreement on what with

Three official voices describe the devices three different ways. The police say plainly that they were not rockets.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who Unknown. No arrests, no claim, no suspect described. The Brandenburg State Criminal Police Office leads. Jan Redmann says the inquiry runs in all directions.

What A double-digit number of unexploded improvised explosive and incendiary devices recovered. Conductive material laid into high-voltage lines in two places.

Where The Turnow-Preilack substation, Spree-Neisse district, southern Brandenburg, near Cottbus and about 5 km from the Jaenschwalde lignite plant.

When Discovered about 08:00 local on Tuesday 1 September 2026.

Why No motive established. Shorting extra-high-voltage lines at a substation feeding a major plant is an attempt at an area loss of supply. It was not achieved.

How The contested point. 50Hertz - self-built flying objects like commercial fireworks. Redmann - rockets made for the purpose. Police - not rockets.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Jan 2026 Vulkangruppe claimed arson on Berlin power lines

1 Sep 2026 Berlin attributes the Leipzig/Halle drone to Russia

- 1 About 07:30 - a fireball at the substation
- 2 Block B shuts itself down automatically
- 3 About 08:00 - a double-digit number of devices found
- 4 50Hertz restores all lines; supply never affected
- 5 The LKA takes the case and the descriptions diverge
- 6 Officials keep every line of enquiry open

IMPACT

- Lines damaged and restored; one 500-megawatt block tripped offline on automatic protection. No wider outage, no injuries.
- The intended area outage did not happen. That is about how the grid absorbed the fault, not about site protection.
- A second attack on eastern German electricity infrastructure inside a year, in a live domestic argument about hybrid threat.
- The word rocket carried the story internationally, from one of three official accounts and contradicted by another.

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- It is almost certain this was a deliberate attack on the transmission network. Nothing else accounts for the device count or the placement.
- Attribution is open. No group has claimed it, unlike the January precedent. A realistic possibility of hostile-state direction, no more on the evidence.
- The device description is contested at source. Until the LKA describes them, draw no inference about capability.
- The attack failed against network resilience, not site security. Highly likely that attacks on European grid nodes continue.