

Storm Hits Ukraine Parachute Jump, 5 Killed

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An L-410 airplane lying in a field near the Borodyanka airstrip Sunday. Anatolii Stepanov

KIEV — Five people were killed and 13 others injured in Ukraine when a storm forced an aircraft carrying parachutists to make an emergency landing, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

The L-410 plane, which had a two-person crew, was taking 16 parachutists on a jump Sunday from the Borodyanka airstrip, about 50 kilometers northwest of Kiev, when bad weather closed in.

"There was very heavy rain and strong winds which required them to make an emergency landing," said ministry spokeswoman Yulia Yershova.

"Five people were killed and 13 have been injured," she added.

There was no explanation of what went wrong with the emergency landing.

The plane broke apart on impact in a grassy field. No one on the ground was hurt.

The L-410 is a twin-engine short-range transport aircraft developed in the 1960s in Czechoslovakia. About 550 of the planes, which can carry up to 19 passengers, remain in service.

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