

Biplane Bursts Into Flames After Emergency Landing

By The Moscow Times

November 25, 2012



An An-2 biplane carrying 10 amateur parachutists burst into flames Sunday after making an emergency landing near a Siberian army base.

Emergency officials said in a statement that there were no fatalities but that eight people had been hospitalized.

The <u>statement</u> said the crash landing took place at about midday local time near the Yugorsk 2 Air Force base in the Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous district and that the faulty airplane belongs to a club that organizes outings for sky-diving enthusiasts.

According to the local branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry, the plane made a sudden descent after losing power shortly after takeoff. On landing, the plane's engine packed up and the craft burst into flames, the ministry said.

Antonov biplanes have been in the news lately after an An-2 carrying local officials from the Sverdlovsk region disappeared on June 11. The plane has still not been found, and authorities recently ended a five-month search operation.

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