

Russian Helicopter Crashes Off Norway With 8 Aboard

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Vitaly Nevar / TASS

A Russian helicopter crashed near Norwegian Arctic territory with all eight people on board reportedly dead, local authorities [said](#) Thursday.

The north Norwegian search and rescue service wrote on Twitter that the helicopter went down near the barren Arctic island of Spitsbergen.

After local media reported that a rescue helicopter was dispatched to the site, an unnamed Norwegian border services representative told the news website FlashNord that all eight people had died.

The helicopter, according to state-run RIA Novosti news agency, belonged to Tver-based Konvers Avia shuttle airline, which operates a fleet of transport helicopters

It plunged into the sea some 2-3 km off the island's Russian settlement, Barentsburg, having left from another settlement called Pyramiden.

Spitsbergen, part of the Svalbard archipelago, is an international demilitarized and free economic zone considered a sovereign entity of Norway.

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