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41 Confirmed Dead After Russian Aeroflot Plane Lands With Fire On Board

May 05, 2019



Russian Investigative Committee / Moskva News Agency

Forty-one people were killed and at least nine were injured when a Russian Aeroflot Sukhoi Superjet plane made an emergency landing at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport on Sunday due to fire on board.

The plane, a one-year-old Sukhoi Superjet, departed from Sheremetyevo for Murmansk but shortly after taking off requested an emergency landing after experiencing equipment failures due to being struck by lightning, Interfax cited a source as saying.

The plane bounced off the runway four times during landing. After the fourth landing, the plane's landing gear collapsed and the tail caught fire.

Russia's Investigative Committee confirmed that 41 out of 78 passengers, who had been headed from Moscow to the northern Russian city of Murmansk, were killed.

One of the passengers killed was U.S. citizen Jeremy Brooks, the state-run TASS news agency

reported.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy in Russia confirmed to The Moscow Times that one U.S. citizen died in the crash. The embassy is in contact with Russian authorities as the investigation progresses, the spokesperson added.

Embed:

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Ребят, со мной все хорошо, жив и цел. Успел выскочить. Это рейс Москва-Мурманск 17.50. Остальное смотрите в новостях. Спаслись точно не все. Огромные соболезнования родным и близким.

A post shared by Mikhail Savchenko (@mikkentosh) on May 5, 2019 at 8:51am PDT

Nine passengers were taken to the hospital, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency cited a Health Ministry source as saying.

Interfax reported that the tail was completely burned and a rescue team had tried to find survivors in that part of the plane.

TV footage showed a plane landing with its tail ablaze. On the ground, black smoke billowed from the plane.

Embed:

> Видео из салона самолета Москва-Мурманск, сгоревшего при посадке в Шереметьево.
>
> Люди в панике, огонь охватывает почти все за бортом.
> pic.twitter.com/CAjKgT8cZQ
>
> — Breaking Mash (@BreakingMash) May 5, 2019

The plane had the registration number RA-89098. The Flightradar24 tracking service showed that it made two circles around Moscow and landed after about 45 minutes.

Emergency workers have recovered two of the plane's black boxes, the RBC news website reported on Monday.

The Investigative Committee opened a case into safety violations that led to the deaths and listed potential causes including insufficient qualifications of pilots and crew; technical malfunctions; and poor weather conditions.

Reuters contributed reporting to this article.

Embed:

> Жёсткая посадкаSSJ-100 pic.twitter.com/OIJ1OldW9h
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> — Коммерсантъ FM 93,6 (@KFM936) May 5, 2019

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