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Both Pilots Dead After Small Aircraft Crashes in Remote Siberian Region

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West Siberian Transport Prosecutor's Office

A small utility plane crashed in a remote area of Siberia's Krasnoyarsk region on Friday, killing both pilots on board, Russian authorities said.

The Antonov An-2 aircraft, operated by regional carrier Borus Airlines, went down around 5:00 p.m. local time in what officials described as a "hard landing," according to the regional transportation prosecutor's office.

"Two pilots on board were killed and the aircraft was destroyed," said Russia's Interstate Aviation Committee (MAK), the body responsible for investigating civil aviation accidents across former Soviet states.

Russia's civil aviation regulator Rosaviatsia classified the incident as a "catastrophe" and said local officials would assist MAK in its investigation. The West Siberian Transport Prosecutor's Office also opened an inquiry into possible violations of air safety rules.

Preliminary information suggests the aircraft had just completed aerial work before it crashed about 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the village of Tanzybei.

Borus Airlines is based in Shushenskoye, around 70 kilometers (43 miles) west of Tanzybei.

The cause of the crash has not yet been determined.

The An-2, a Soviet-designed single-engine biplane, is widely used across Russia's more far-flung regions for cargo and passenger flights.

No flight tracking data for the aircraft's registration RA-70350 was available on publicly accessible aviation monitoring platforms, which is common for older aircraft that often lack transponders and operate outside radar coverage.

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