

Investigating group continues examining Angara Mi-8 helicopter crash scene



East Siberian Federal District Transport Investigations Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee jointly with specialists of Interstate Aviation Committee have resumed examining the Angara airlines Mi-8 helicopter crash scene. During the examination the specialists found the blackbox and gave it to the Interstate Aviation Committee for study. The helicopter fuel samples were taken from Burovaya-111 landing site. Documents concerning weather on the day of flight were seized from the airport of Kirensk. Biological samples necessary for identification of the bodies were taken from relatives of passengers and crew members.

The helicopter crashed on 6 May 2013. The examination is complicated by the fact that the crash scene is a part of the river Nizhnaya Tunguska, overflowed due to floods, and the adjoining part of the forest. The dispersion of the helicopter fragments is no less than 300 meters. During the examination the specialists found and seized fragments of death bodies, which can be identified only after expert examinations including a DNA test. By now investigators have assigned forensic medical expert examinations.

They also found 15 parts of the helicopter which will be examined later.

Pre-flight documents of Angara airlines were seized from airports in the cities of Irkutsk and Kirensk. Investigators also seized the documents concerning keeping and distribution of explosives for blasting ice jams. They questioned staff of the local office of The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry and regional emergency rescue service, who had taken part in organizing the working trip of personnel of these agencies, are questioning other persons involved in organization of the helicopter flight.

Investigators also found the people responsible for keeping and transportation of explosives used for elimination of ice jams in the rivers of Katangsky district, Irkutsk Region and are going to find the circumstances under which the explosives were transported aboard the crashed helicopter.

Investigators consider bad weather, pilot's mistake and violation of conditions for transportation of explosives as priority versions of the accident.

08 May 2013

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