
Preliminary investigation launched in missing Mi-8 helicopter in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area-Yugra

A Mi-8 helicopter of UTair airlines took off from Nizhnevartovsk at 11:55 PM, local time, 2 July 2015. It has been missing since. The Ural Transportation Investigations Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee has opened an investigation in the incident.

According to preliminary data, on 2 July 2015, at 10:29 PM, local time, the Mi-8 helicopter took off from the airport in Surgut on medical mission for the airport of Nizhnevartovsk. The helicopter was carrying the captain, the second pilot, flight mechanic and two medics. Having completed the task the helicopter took off from Nizhnevartovsk at 11:55 PM. The last contact with the helicopter took place on 3 July 2015, at 12:29 AM, with the next contact coming on at 12:50 AM, however, the helicopter failed to make contact.

By the present time the Ural Transportation Investigations Directorate has received documents from Surgut Disaster Medicine Center related to the mission and aims of the flight, sealed off the fuel-supply station, is identifying the conditions and progress of preflight training and maintenance of the helicopter in the last place it took off from. The investigators are requesting technical documents of the helicopter. A procedural decision will be made following the check.

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