
Probe launched in AS-350 crash killing 4 in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area

The Ural Transport Investigations Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee has launched a criminal investigation in a crime under part 3 of article 263 of the RF Penal Code (violation of safety rules for traffic and operation of an aircraft involving death of two or more people) following a crash of an AS-350 helicopter in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area-Yugra that claimed lives of 4 people.

According to investigators, on 29 November 2015, about 1:11 PM, local time, an AS-350 helicopter of OOO SKOL Airlines crashed near the Akhlym river, 8 km from the village of Kedrovyy, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area-Yugra, while flying around deposits. According to preliminary data, 2 crew members and 2 passengers were killed, the helicopter was destroyed in the crash.

At the present time investigators are seizing from the airline all documents related to the helicopter and the crew. At the same time the samples of the fuel the helicopter had been fueled before taking off are being taken.

The investigators are considering several versions of the crash, including technical failure, pilot's error and weather. None of them is in the priority. The investigation is ongoing.

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