

Crash of Sibir Airlines A310

July 9, 2006

MOSCOW - A Sibir Airlines jetliner carrying about 200 people crashed today in the Siberian city of Irkutsk. The aircraft, an A310-324, F-OGYP was on a scheduled flight from Moscow to Irkutsk, near Lake Baikal.

The regional prosecutor's office said a preliminary count showed that more than 150 people died, the Interfax news agency reported. The Interfax report said that the dead were believed to include the eight crew members.

According to the Emergency Situations Ministry spokeswoman Irina Andrianova:

- The plane was carrying 192 passengers, 43 people had been hospitalized and another 10 managed to escape.
- The aircraft veered off the runway on landing. It was traveling at a terrific speed.
- The plane hit a concrete barrier, collapsing the front section of the aircraft. It then burst into flames.
- It took five emergency services more than two hours to extinguish the flames.

Sibir, Russia's second-largest airline came under new ownership amid a 1998 financial crisis and installed a dynamic young team to reinvent what remained of Aeroflot's Siberian wing with the help of Western consultants. Those plans were dealt a blow when a Sibir Tu-154 was one of two planes lost in near-simultaneous crashes blamed on terrorist bombs in 2004. Three years earlier, another Sibir plane was shot down by a stray Ukrainian missile fired during military exercises. All 78 people on board died.



Sibir Airlines A310