

Russian air safety officials blame pilot error for the Armenia A-320 Crash

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Russian air safety officials said that the **Armenia A-320 Crash** that killed 113 people and the crew was due to pilot error. The pilots of the Airbus-320 operated by Armenia's Armavia airline allowed the plane to descend too low as it faced bad weather on its approach to the airport outside the Russian resort town of Sochi, Tatyana Anodina, the head of a civil aviation agency that links Russia with 11 other ex-Soviet republics, said on Russian television.

Anodina added that **an automated system warned the two pilots that the plane was flying dangerously low**, but that a last-ditch effort to gain altitude failed to head off the crash into the Black Sea, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Anodina's agency, the Interstate Aviation Committee (IAC), particularly **blamed the plane's commanding officer for causing the crash**. Facing bad visibility and driving rain, **the commander took the plane off autopilot as it flew 340 meters (1,115 feet) above the Black Sea, causing the flight crew to lose control of the aircraft**, according to IAC conclusions reported by the RIA-Novosti news agency.

The IAC found that **the crew's subsequent attempts to raise the plane's altitude were uncoordinated and insufficient**, RIA-Novosti said.