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UTAIR Airlines TU134 crash at Samara, Russia



On March 17, 2007 at 10:45hours UTAir Airlines flight 471, a Tupolev 134AK crashed during landing at Samara, Russia. Yury Mushikhin, a spokesman for UTAir, said 57 people had been aboard the Tu-134 jet, including 50 passengers and seven crew members. The plane was scheduled to make a stopover in Samara en route from Surgut to -Belgorod. Mushikhin confirmed that six passengers had died in the crash. As of Sunday evening, he said, 21 people were receiving treatment at a local hospital. Five members of the crew were hospitalized, but none died.

While attempting to land in heavy fog, for reasons yet to be determined, the plane landed 400 meters short of the runway. The left wing hit the ground and separated from the fuselage. The plane then rolled over inverted and the fuselage broke apart. Samara airport official Anatoly Ilin told RIA-Novosti.

While UTAir gave a statement that the plane had no technical problems, Emergency situation ministry officials said that before attempting to land, the plane circled several times above the airport to burn off excess fuel.

Saturday's crash was the latest in a string of aviation accidents over the past 12 months in former Soviet republics, most of them in bad weather.



Officials peering inside the Tu-134 plane



inverted aft fuselage