

Seven killed in Shungnak air crash

Seven people were killed and two injured in the crash of a small airplane at the village of Shungnak in the Kobuk Valley Monday afternoon.

The Cessna 185 crashed on landing at Shungnak on a flight originating in the nearby village of Ambler. The airplane was reportedly operated by an Ambler-based air taxi service.

The survivors, including one child, were believed to have been thrown clear of
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the aircraft on impact. They were immediately evacuated to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital by an pilot from Aurora Air Service of Fairbanks, who was in the vicinity at the time of the accident. They are reported in stable condition.

Victims, whose names have not been released, are thought to be local village residents. National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration officials are investigating the tragedy.