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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(SD)-NTSB Finally At Plane Crash Site, Identities Of Victims Released

By: John Axtell Posted at: 12/02/2019 04:00 PM

CHAMBERLAIN, S.D. (AP) - A 3-member investigation team from the National Transportation Safety Board is finally on the scene of the Saturday afternoon crash of a single-engine plane near Chamberlain, SD, that killed 9 people and injured 3.

The NTSB team arrived in Sioux Falls on Saturday, but was kept there by bad weather until today.

Meanwhile, more has been released about the occupants of the plane. Officials say they were members of an extended Idaho business family returning from an annual pheasant-hunting trip. The ages of the victims ranged from 7 to 81.

Among those killed were brothers Jim and Kirk Hansen, co-founders with another family of the Kyani nutrition and wellness products family. Seven other male members of the family also died.

The survivors were Kirk Hansen's Josh and Jim Hansen's son Matt and son-in-law Thomas Long. All 3 are in stable condition at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls. Family representative Jeff Walborn calls the crash a "total tragedy" for the extended family.

NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson says the plane carrying the family, a single-engine Pilatus PC-12 turboprop, had just taken off from Chamberlain for Idaho Falls, Idaho, about 12:30 pm Saturday when it crashed within a mile of the airport.

The area was under a winter storm warning at the time and Knudson says weather will be among the factors the NTSB investigators will review.

The Pilatus PC-12 is often used for corporate flights and is considered one of the most versatile and valued business aircraft in the world. It's also used by a number of airlines, including Boutique Airlines on its Chadron-Denver route.