
MEDIA RELEASE

Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) of The Bahamas For Immediate Release

Statement on Fatal Aircraft Accident Involving Piper PA-34 Aircraft with United States registration N212ML

Nassau, The Bahamas — 8th September 2026 , The Aircraft Accident Investigation Authority (AAIA) of The Bahamas advises that on Monday 7th September 2026, a Piper PA-34 aircraft with four (4) persons on board bearing United States registration N212ML lost radar contact with Miami Center air traffic control prior to 11:00 am while enroute from the Great Harbour Cay Airport, Berry Islands, Bahamas to the Miami Executive Airport, Miami, FL, USA. Search and rescue operations were subsequently initiated by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the United States Coast Guard.

Initial search and rescue efforts conducted that day, in a general area to the west of the northern coast of Andros, Bahamas yielded negative sightings of the aircraft and its occupants. Efforts continued on Tuesday 8th September 2026 where sadly, all four (4) of the occupants of the aircraft were found deceased.

The AAIA extends its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those affected by this tragic occurrence.

As of the issuance of this release, neither the aircraft or any associated wreckage or debris have been located.

Upon receiving notification that the aircraft was overdue and presumed missing on the 7th September 2026, the AAIA opened a safety investigation in accordance with its Regulatory mandate based on the Standards and Recommended Practices contained in ICAO Annex 13 - Aircraft Accident and Incident Investigation.

The AAIA is coordinating with the United States National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and other appropriate national and international agencies. In accordance with ICAO Annex 13, the NTSB, representing the State of Registry, has appointed an Accredited Representative to participate in the investigation, supported by technical advisers as appropriate.

At this early stage, no determination has been made regarding the cause or contributing factors. All information contained in this release is preliminary and subject to change as additional evidence is obtained, verified and analyzed.

The sole objective of the AAIA safety investigation is the prevention of future accidents and incidents. It is not conducted for the purpose of apportioning blame or determining civil or criminal liability. The AAIA investigation is separate from search and rescue activities and from any judicial, law-enforcement or regulatory investigation that may be undertaken by other authorities.

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