

Plane Crash Kills 150 In French Alps

BY GREG KELLER AND ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

SEYNE-LES-ALPES, France — A black box recovered from the scene and pulverized pieces of debris strewn across Alpine mountainsides held clues to what caused a German jetliner to take an unexplained eight-minute dive Tuesday midway through a flight from Spain to Germany, apparently killing all 150 people on board.

The victims included two babies, two opera singers and 16 German high school students and their teachers returning from an exchange trip to Spain. It was the deadliest crash in France in decades.

The Airbus A320 operated by Germanwings, a budget subsidiary of Lufthansa, was less than an hour from landing in Duesseldorf on a flight from Barcelona when it unexpectedly went into a rapid descent. The pilots sent out no distress call and had lost radio contact with their control center, France's aviation authority said, deepening the mystery.

While investigators searched through debris from Flight 9525 on steep and desolate slopes, families across Europe reeled with shock and grief. Sobbing relatives at both airports were led away by airport workers and crisis counselors.

"The site is a picture of horror. The grief of the families and friends is immeasurable," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after being flown over the crash scene. "We must now stand together. We are united in our great grief."

It took investigators hours to reach the site, led by mountain guides to the craggy ravine in the southern French Alps, not far from the Italian border and the French Riviera.

Video shot from a helicopter and aired by BFM TV showed rescuers walking in the crevices of a rocky mountainside scattered with plane parts. Photos of the crash site showed white flecks of debris across a mountain and larger airplane body sections with windows. A helicopter crew that landed briefly in the area saw no signs of life, French officials said.

"Everything is pulverized. The largest pieces of debris are the size of a small car. No one can access the site from the ground," Gilbert Sauvan, president of the general council, Alpes-de-Haute-Provence, told The Associated Press.

"This is pretty much the worst thing you can imagine," said Bodo Kimpel,



ALEJANDRO GARCA/EFE/ZUMA PRESS/TNS
Relatives of the passengers of the crashed Airbus A320 aircraft operated by German budget airline Germanwings arrive at Barcelona's El Prat airport on Tuesday.

mayor of the German town of Haltern, rent with sorrow after losing 16 tenth graders and their two teachers.

The White House and the airline chief said there was no sign that terrorism was involved, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel urged reporters not to speculate on the cause.

Lufthansa Vice President Heike Birlenbach told reporters in Barcelona that for now "we say it is an accident."

In Washington, the White House said American officials were in contact with their French, Spanish and German counterparts. "There is no indication of a nexus to terrorism at this time," said U.S. National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan.

Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy were to visit the site Wednesday.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said a black box had been located at the crash site and "will be immediately investigated." He did not say whether it was the flight data recorder or the cockpit voice recorder.

The two devices — actually orange boxes designed to survive extreme heat and pressure — should provide investigators with a second-by-second timeline of the plane's flight.

The voice recorder takes audio feeds from four microphones within the cockpit and records all the conversations between the pilots, air traffic controllers as well as any noises heard in the cockpit. The flight data recorder captures 25 hours' worth of information on the position and condition of almost every major part in a plane.

Germanwings is low-cost carrier owned by Lufthansa, Germany's biggest airline, and serves mostly European destinations. Tuesday's crash was its first involving passenger deaths since it began operating in 2002. The Germanwings logo, normally maroon and yellow, was blacked out on its Twitter feed.

Lufthansa CEO Carsten Spohr called it the "blackest day of our company's 60-year history." He insisted, however, that flying "remains after this terrible day the safest mode of transport."

Germanwings said 144 passengers and six crew members were on board. Authorities said 67 Germans were believed among the victims, including the 16 high school students and two opera singers, as well as many Spaniards, two Australians and one person each from the Netherlands, Turkey and Denmark.

USDA Proposes Definition Of Farming, Limiting Some Subsidies

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is revising its definition of what it means to farm, meaning some people who receive farm subsidies but don't do any of the work would receive less government cash.

Congress charged the Agriculture Department last year with creating a new definition for what it means to be "actively engaged" in farming, the criteria to receive some subsidies. USDA proposed Tuesday that farms must document that their managers put in 500 hours of substantial management work annually or 25 percent of the time necessary for the success of the farming operation to qualify.

"We want to make sure that farm program payments are going to the farmers and farm families that they are intended to help," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said.

The rules only apply to some farm businesses, however. Congress exempted family owned entities, which make up some of the country's largest farms, as part of a provision in the wide-ranging farm bill that directed USDA to issue the new rules.

USDA said as many as 1,400 operations could lose eligibility under the rules, saving around \$50 million over a three-year period.

The rules are in response to concerns that some people were abusing the idea of "actively engaged" to qualify for subsidies. A report by the Government Accountability

Office in 2013 looked at some farms that received hundreds of thousands of subsidies a year and claimed that 11 or more people were actively engaged in the operation. For some operations, unlimited numbers of so-called managers can now receive payments.

Under the new rules, up to three managers per operation could receive subsidies.

Farmers receive roughly \$5 billion a year under the actively-engaged requirements. The definition up until now has been broad, allowing people to claim vague "active personal management" to receive subsidies. People who don't even visit a farm can receive money, and USDA employees often have a difficult time verifying how engaged an individual is.

The proposed rule still would allow people to claim "active personal management" but defines that as the 500 hours of work or 25 percent of time. To receive payments, managers would have to document that they were directly involved in farm finances, labor management, planting, marketing or other activities directly contributing to the success of the operation.

The rule is focused on farm businesses that are organized as general partnerships, in which multiple members share management, and non-family joint ventures, which are short-term business associations among individuals or entities.

Farms that organize

under those two types of business models can sometimes sidestep farm subsidy limits. The GAO report found that general partnerships and joint ventures received a very high proportion of their subsidies through multiple members claiming that they were actively engaged in farming.

Vilsack says the rules would help "close a loophole that has been taken advantage of" by those businesses.

Farm bills passed by both the House and the Senate proposed stricter rules for which farmers could qualify, and would not have allowed anyone to have qualified under the vague classification of "active personal management." Farmers would have had to contribute labor, capital, equipment or land to qualify for money.

Instead, the final bill that emerged from House-Senate negotiations directed USDA to better define what that management is and specified that family farms could not be part of the rule.

Craig Cox of the Environmental Working Group, which has fought farm subsidies for the wealthy, called the rule "a tiny step forward."

"It doesn't get at the heart of the problem," he said.

Announcing...



APRIL 30TH
thru MAY 3RD

\$28.30

for 30 words and \$.20 per word after 30.
ONLY ONE ADDRESS ALLOWED IN EACH AD.

**Stop By The Press & Dakotan To Place Your Ad
OR email classifieds@yankton.net**

INCLUDES:

- Your ad (30 words, 1 address per ad) placed in the special Citywide Rummage Sale section published on Wednesday, April 29th & Saturday, May 2nd
- Your ad will also appear on-line at www.yankton.net
- Garage Sale Kit: 2 Yard Signs with Balloons

Sponsored by the:

YANKTON DAILY
PRESS & DAKOTAN

DEADLINE: 5PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH



Buy 4 Tires
Get 2 Oil Changes **FREE**

Wrangler SR-A
Buy 3 Get 1 **FREE** exp. 4/4/15

Assurance Comfortred
Buy 3 Get 1 **FREE** exp. 4/4/15

March Into Graham Tire for Great Savings & Rebates!

Authorized distributor of Harper Brand Brooms and Squeegees.

GRAHAM
YOUR TIRE STORE NEXT DOOR

2704 Fox Run Pkwy • Yankton • (605) 665-4406

Call for Bids

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Board of Utica Township of Yankton County, South Dakota for the purchase of the following:

Approximately 7,500 tons of crushed gravel meeting South Dakota Department of Transportation Standard Specifications, delivered and spread by September 1, 2015 on the roadways of Utica Township North in Yankton County, South Dakota. The board may also increase contract quantity up to 25%.

Such bids should be marked "gravel bid" on the front of a sealed envelope. Such bids may be submitted to the following address: Utica Township Clerk, c/o Daniel Cwach, 30627 439th Ave, Yankton, SD 57078.

Such bids need to be mailed and received on or before Tuesday, the 7th day of April, 2015 or may be hand delivered by 7 pm at the bid opening meeting at the former Utica School, Utica, South Dakota, at which time such bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. By virtue of statutory authority preference will be given to product found or produced within the State of South Dakota.

The Board of Utica Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or to accept any bid which it deems to be in the best interest of Utica Township.

For additional information, contact Dan Schenkel, chairman, at 665-8051.