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Four killed in plane crash in Alaska

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By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Four people were killed when a floatplane crashed near Katmai National Park and Preserve, federal aviation authorities said Monday.

Three of the four victims were identified Monday. They included fishing clients Greg Brophy, 44, and Sean Brophy, 49, from Ontario, Canada; and guide Tom Beatty, 38, from Homer, National Park Service spokesman John Quinley said in a prepared statement.

The pilot also was killed in the crash, but Quinley said the next-of-kin had not yet been notified.

There is no indication on the cause of the crash.

The plane, a Helio Courier H-295, was returning to Royal Wolf Lodge when it crashed into trees Sunday near Nonvianuk Lake, said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Clint Johnson.

The pilot had contacted the lodge, saying he expected to return by 4 p.m. Sunday, Quinley said. When the plane had not landed 45 minutes after the appointed time, aircraft were sent from the lodge and found the plane 6 miles from the lodge.

Lodge employees took a boat and then hiked to the site and confirmed there were no survivors, Quinley said.

The plane, owned by Branham Adventures of Anchorage and leased to the lodge, crashed in tree-covered terrain about a quarter mile from the lake, Johnson said.

Nonvianuk Lake is in the northern portion of the national park, which is about 200 miles southwest of Anchorage. The lodge is on private property within the preserve.

The Associated Press