

Pilot of missing light plane found dead in Blue Mountains, west of Sydney

The wreckage of a light plane, which has been missing in the Blue Mountains since yesterday, has been found with the dead pilot inside, police say.

Officers confirmed the crash site had been discovered and paramedics were being winched into the area to recover the man's body.

Police have not released any further details on the location of the crash site or details about the pilot.

Ten aircraft, including nine helicopters and one plane, took part in the search for the single-engine aircraft, which was reported missing shortly after 5:00pm yesterday after taking off five hours earlier from Katoomba Airfield.

This morning, an ambulance helicopter spotted the wreckage of the aircraft about 150 metres south-east of the airfield.

A statement from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), which was coordinating the various authorities involved in the search, said initial reports from the ground indicated the crash was not survivable.

"AMSA extends our sympathy to the family and friends of the pilot and wishes to thank everyone involved in the search operation," the statement said.

"NSW police have now taken coordination of the incident."

The pilot, believed to be an elderly man, was the only person on board.

Earlier Sam Cardwell, an AMSA spokesman, said the pilot was planning to do circuits of the airfield.

"As far as we know, there's been no mayday called, we don't believe there's a beacon on board and we're not sure whether there was a mobile phone on board either," Mr Cardwell said.

Extracted from:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-02-28/pilot-of-missing-light-plane-found-dead-in-blue-mountains/7205766>

On 28/02/16 at 10:42:57