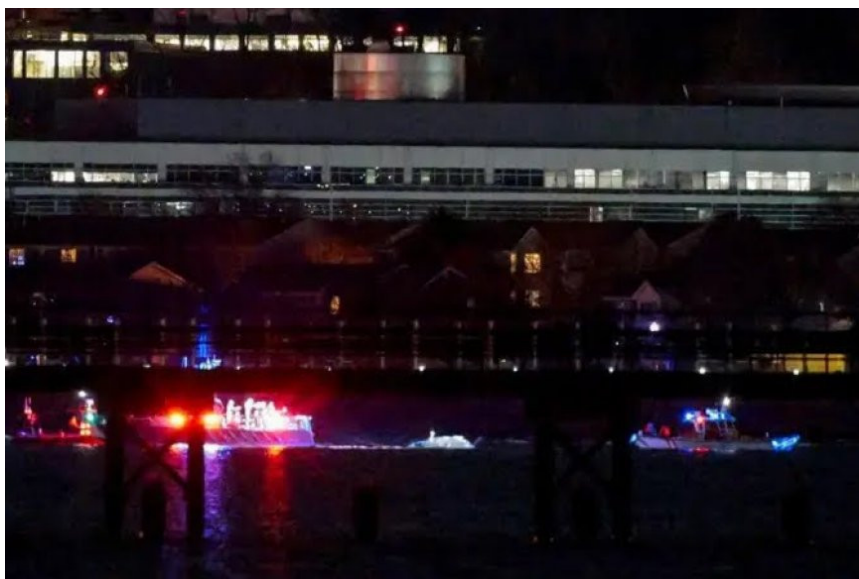




What we know so far about Washington DC plane crash



Plane Crash file pic

A passenger plane carrying 64 passengers and crew has crashed into a river in Washington DC after it collided in mid-air with a US Army helicopter.

What we know so far about Washington DC plane crash

A passenger plane carrying 64 passengers and crew has crashed into a river in Washington DC after it collided in mid-air with a US Army helicopter.

Eighteen bodies have been pulled from the Potomac River so far, where search and rescue teams are scouring the waters in freezing temperatures, according to the BBC's broadcast partner, CBS.

US authorities are investigating and the nearby Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport has grounded all flights.

Ari Schulman told NBC Washington that he saw the plane crash while driving on the George Washington Parkway, which runs along the airport.

He said the plane's approach looked normal, until he saw the aircraft bank hard to the right, with "streams of sparks" running underneath, illuminating its belly.

At that point, he said he knew that it looked "very, very wrong". Having seen plane landings there in the past, he said a plane's underside should not have been visible in the dark.

The sparks, he said, resembled a "giant roman candle" and went from the plane's nose to its tail.

Jimmy Mazeo said he saw the crash while having dinner with his girlfriend at a park near the airport.

He recalled seeing what looked like a "white flare" in the sky. He said planes flying into Ronald Reagan Airport appeared to have been flying in "irregular patterns".

Mr Mazeo said he did not think much of what he saw until emergency services started arriving

President Donald Trump said he had been fully briefed on the the "terrible accident" and that he was monitoring the situation closely.

"May God Bless their souls," he said in a statement. "Thank you for the incredible work being done by our first responders.

On his TruthSocial social media account, he has also raised questions about how the incident could have happened. "This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. NOT GOOD!!!"

Vice-President JD Vance asked for prayers for those who were in the incident.

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy, whose appointments were just recently confirmed, also said they were monitoring the situation.

Asked if flight paths near Ronald Reagan airport would be changed after the incident, Mr Duffy said "we will take appropriate action if necessary".

"There will be a review of what happened here tonight," he said.

American Airlines CEO Robert Isom expressed his "deep sorrow" about the collision in a video, Here is what we know so far about the incident