

# Air France AF 447 plane crash worst aviation disaster since 2001

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If no survivors are found from the Air France AF 447 plane, which was carrying 228 people on board went missing early on Monday morning, it will be the worst loss of life involving an Air France plane in the firm's 75-year history.

The plane was an Airbus 330-200 (EAD.PA) powered with General Electric (GE.N) engines. If the plane is confirmed to have crashed, it would be the first time an A330 has been lost during an operational airline flight.

Air France said the plane had clocked 18,870 flight hours and went into service in April 2005. It last underwent maintenance in a hangar in April this year.

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The last major incident involving an Air France plane was in July 2000 when one of its Concorde supersonic airliners crashed just after taking off from Paris, bound for New York.

All 109 people on board were killed along with at least four on the ground.

Moreover, if all 228 people are declared dead, it would be the deadliest disaster to strike in the history of commercial airline since November. 12, 2001, when an American Airlines jetliner crashed in the New York City borough of Queens during a flight to the Dominican Republic, killing 265 people. On February 19, 2003, 275 people were killed in the crash of an Iranian military plane carrying members of the Revolutionary Guards as it prepared to land at Kerman airport in Iran.

The worst single-plane disaster was in 1985 when a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashed into a mountainside after losing part of its tail fin, killing 520 people.

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