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## Four Dead After Medical Transport Plane Crashes Near Arizona Hospital

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A tragic crash involving a medical transport plane in northeastern Arizona has left four people dead, according to officials. The aircraft, a Beechcraft 300 twin-propeller plane operated by CSI Aviation, went down near Chinle Airport shortly after noon on Tuesday. Authorities say the aircraft was en route to pick up a patient when it crashed and caught fire.

The Navajo Police Department confirmed that all four individuals on board were killed. None of the victims were from the immediate area. Their identities have not yet been released, pending notification of next of kin.

CSI Aviation, the operator of the aircraft, is a private air carrier based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, known for providing medical flight services. The company has held past contracts with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and has transported senior officials with the United Nations (UN). Tuesday's flight was part of a routine medical retrieval operation.

The crash occurred close to Chinle Airport, a small airstrip located just five miles from a federal healthcare facility that serves residents of the Navajo Nation. It has not been officially confirmed whether the facility was the aircraft's intended destination, but its proximity and function suggest it may have been.

"This is a heartbreaking loss," said Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren in a public statement. "These were people who dedicated their lives to saving others, and their loss is felt deeply across the Navajo Nation. We honor their service, their sacrifice, and the love they showed our communities through their work."

Nygren extended his condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to their colleagues. "Our prayers are with the families of those on the plane as investigations continue. May the Creator bring comfort and strength in the days ahead," he added.

The Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation in the United States, spans approximately 16 million acres across Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. The region is often served by air ambulance providers due to its remote terrain and the long distances between specialized hospitals.

Federal aviation authorities have begun investigating the cause of the crash. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are expected to conduct a joint inquiry to determine what led to the aircraft's failure. Early reports suggest the aircraft was engulfed in flames soon after impact, but it remains unclear whether mechanical issues, weather, or human error played a role.

CSI Aviation has not issued a detailed public statement but confirmed it is cooperating fully with investigators. The company has served both government and civilian clients for decades and is recognized in the industry for its focus on critical air medical services.

The loss underscores the risks associated with emergency air transport missions, particularly in isolated regions where aircraft are a vital lifeline for patients in urgent need of

care. As the investigation unfolds, attention will turn to what safeguards can be reinforced to protect the flight crews who carry out these critical operations.