

## Eleven dead in Hawaii skydiving plane crash

Hawaii's state transportation agency confirmed there were no survivors on a twin-engine aircraft skydiving flight near Oahu's north shore.

The agency revised the death toll up twice and now says there were 11 occupants aboard.

All died after the plane reportedly flipped over at least once and then crashed in flames near where it took off at Dillingham Airfield.

"It's very difficult. In my 40 years as a firefighter here in Hawaii, this is the most tragic aircraft incident we've had," fire chief Manuel Neves said.

It is thought to be the worst civilian crash of its kind since 2011.

NTSB investigators arrived on the scene to assess the wreckage which witnesses said no longer resembled an aircraft due to the 'insane fire' on impact.

The plane was operated by the Oahu Parachute Center skydiving company which offers tandem jumps ranging from \$170 to \$250.



It was reported the same plane had been involved in a mid-air incident in 2016.

in that incident it repeatedly stalled and went into a spin.

Skydivers were ordered to jump earlier than planned while the pilot fought to stabilize the plane.

The pilot did eventually manage to do that and landed it safely, a NTSB report said, which attributed it to initial pilot error.

In light of this crash, investigators will look at the report recommendations as well as repairs and maintenance records.

Although the plane had a capacity for 13 people, investigators said it may have been overweight.