

## Plane crashes cost insurers over \$1 bn in 2009

Aviation insurance companies are experiencing one of their worst years on record due to a number of costly plane crashes, according to information released at a meeting of global reinsurance companies in Monte Carlo.

According to estimates, three plane crashes this year will force insurers to pay more than \$1.3 billion (930 million euros) in compensation.

The June 1 crash of an Air France Airbus in the Atlantic Ocean, in which 228 people died, is now estimated to cost about \$747 million.

Added to this is are the costs of the February crash of a Colgan Air plane in the US (\$354 million) and that of a Yemenia Airlines aircraft near the Comoros islands in late June (\$239 million).

As a result, 2009 'will probably go down in history as one of the worst years ever for aviation insurance,' the insurers said.

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