

# Cause of deadly DC crash investigated

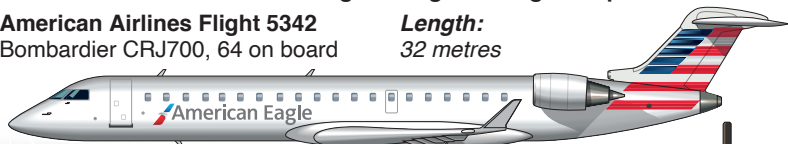
Investigators are looking for the cause of the fatal collision between a passenger plane and a helicopter near Washington DC, including claims that there was a staffing shortage at Reagan Airport at the time

**American Airlines Flight 5342**

Bombardier CRJ700, 64 on board

**Length:**

32 metres



White House

WASHINGTON DC

**Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk**  
Three on board

**Length:**

19.8 metres (fuselage)

## FINAL MOMENTS

**■ 8:45pm (01:45GMT):** Flight 5342 approaches Reagan Airport. Air traffic controllers ask crew to land on Runway 33, which pilots acknowledge

**1 8:46pm:** Helicopter's pilot requests "visual separation", meaning helicopter would take responsibility for maintaining safe distance from plane. Air traffic control approves request

**2 8:47pm:** Air traffic control asks helicopter if they have jet in sight and tells pilot to pass behind it. Helicopter crew responds **"The aircraft is in sight"**

**3 8:48pm:** Both aircraft collide and crash into Potomac River. All 67 people killed

