

# Boeing recommends grounding 777s after engine blows apart at Denver

■ United Airlines flight made safe emergency landing and no one was hurt

## The Associated Press

Boeing has recommended that airlines ground all 777s with the type of engine that blew apart after takeoff from Denver this weekend, and most carriers that fly those planes said they would temporarily pull them from service.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration ordered United Airlines to step up inspections of the aircraft after one of its flights made an emergency landing at Denver International Airport Saturday as pieces of the engine, a Pratt & Whitney PW4000, rained down on suburban neighborhoods. None of the 231 passengers or 10 crew were hurt, and the flight landed safely, authorities said. United is among the carriers that has grounded the planes.

FAA Administrator Steve Dickson said in a statement Sunday that based on an initial review of safety data, inspectors "concluded that the inspection interval should be stepped up for the hollow fan blades that are unique to this model of engine, used solely on Boeing 777 airplanes."

Dickson said that would likely mean some planes would be grounded — and Boeing said they should be until the FAA sets up an inspection regime. Japan ordered the planes out of service, according to the financial newspaper Nikkei, while noting that an engine in the same family suffered trouble in December.

Boeing said there were 69 777s with the Pratt & Whitney 4000-112 engines in service and another 59 in storage.

United had 24 of the planes in service; it is the only U.S. airline with the engine in its fleet, according to the FAA. Two Japanese airlines have another 32 that are being pulled while Asiana Airlines grounded nine, seven of which were in service, until Boeing establishes a plan to fix the problems. Korean Air said it was discussing whether to ground 16 aircraft, six of which are in service.

"We are working with these regulators as they take actions while these planes are on the ground and further inspections are conducted by Pratt & Whitney," Boeing said in a statement issued Sunday, referring to American and Japanese regulators.

The engine maker said it was sending a team to work with investigators.

The emergency landing



A Boeing 777 airliner.

FloridaTimes-Union/File Photo



Broomfield (Colorado) Police Department/Contributed Photo

This photo released by Broomfield Police Department on Twitter shows debris from a commercial airliner that narrowly missed a home as it fell onto Denver suburbs during an emergency landing Saturday, Feb. 20.

this past weekend is the latest trouble for Boeing, which saw its 737 Max planes grounded for more than a year after two deadly crashes in 2019 and is suffering amid the huge reduction in air travel due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Max planes began returning to the skies late last year — a huge boost for the aircraft maker, which lost billions during the grounding because it has been unable to deliver new planes to customers.

Video posted on Twitter from Saturday's emergency showed the engine fully engulfed in flames as the plane flew through the air. Freeze frames from different video taken by a passenger sitting slightly in front of the engine and also posted on Twitter appeared to show a broken

fan blade in the engine.

Passengers, who were headed to Honolulu, said they feared the plane would crash after an explosion and flash of light, while people on the ground saw huge chunks of the aircraft pour down, just missing one home and crushing a truck. The explosion, visible from the ground, left a trail of black smoke in the sky.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board said that two of the engine's fan blades were fractured and the remainder of the fan blades "exhibited damage." But it cautioned that it was too early to draw conclusions about what happened.

United says it will work closely with the FAA and the NTSB "to determine any additional steps that are needed

# Two arrested in separate reports of family fights

■ Haines man accused of throwing a knife at his brother, and Huntington man charged with punching son-in-law

## By Chris Collins

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Baker County Sheriff's deputies arrested two Baker County men on charges related to two separate fights with family members Saturday night — one at Haines and one at Huntington.

Both men were lodged at the Baker County Jail, a press release stated.

Nathen Ray Kirk, 34, of Haines, is being held on a menacing charge for allegedly throwing a knife at his brother, Chance Michael Kirk, 36, of Haines.

Robert James Brown, 69, of Huntington was jailed on a charge of fourth-degree domestic assault and later released on bail. He is accused of punching his son-in-law, David Anthony Hanks, 31, of Huntington, in the face.

The Sheriff's Department was dispatched to the fight between the two Haines brothers at 9:57 p.m., the press release stated.

The two men had been arguing when Nathen Kirk lunged at his brother with a knife.

After that, Chance went into another room to retrieve a can of pepper spray, the release stated. As Chance came out of the room, Nathen threw the knife at his brother. Chance Kirk was not hit by the knife.

Chance then sprayed Nathen in the face with the pepper spray, according to the press release.

Nathen first was treated for his injuries from the pepper spray and then was arrested and transported to the Baker County Jail, according to the press release.

## Huntington incident

The Dispatch Center received a report of a domestic disturbance at Huntington about 10:35 p.m. Saturday, a second press release stated.

Deputies determined that David Hanks had been in an argument with his wife, but there had been no crime.

As part of the investigation, deputies also learned that earlier in the evening, Hanks had driven to the home of his father-in-law, Robert Brown. As Hanks sat in his vehicle outside Brown's home, Brown allegedly came out and struck Hanks in the face with his fist several times.

Hanks was injured in the altercation, the press release stated.

Deputies made contact with Brown, arrested him and transported him to the Baker County Jail.



Nathen Kirk



Brown

# Ice storm damaged cherry trees outside Oregon Capitol

SALEM (AP) — The regionally famous cherry trees on Oregon's Capitol Mall were damaged in last weekend's ice storm.

At least two of the 150 Akebono flowering cherry trees that line the park leading up to the statehouse will need to be removed and the rest will be thinned out significantly after sustaining significant damage, the Statesman Journal reported Friday.

The cherry trees, planted in 1992, attract visitors from around the region when they bloom in March and April and inspired the Capitol's annual Cherry Blossom Day. The two rows of trees lining the mall, with their gorgeous

pink-and-white blooms, are regarded as a visual representation of the coming of spring.

Right now, it's unknown how the lost limbs will impact the cherry trees' survival or affect the aesthetics of the mall, said Kevin Strandberg, park manager with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation.

"We'll be further assessing the trees in the future once the initial cleanup is done," he said.

Strandberg said removal might be good for the health of other cherry trees. The two so far identified as needing removal were already growing quite close to neighboring trees, despite frequent pruning, crowding the canopies.

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