

UNITED AIRLINES PLANE | NEAR DENVER

Debris falls during emergency landing

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

Debris from a United Airlines plane fell onto Denver suburbs during an emergency landing Saturday after one of its engines suffered a catastrophic failure and rained pieces of the engine casing on a neighborhood where it narrowly missed a home.

The plane landed safely, and nobody aboard or on the ground was reported hurt, authorities said.

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement that the Boeing 777-200 returned to the Denver International Airport after experiencing a right-engine failure shortly after takeoff. Flight 328 was flying from Denver to Honolulu when the incident occurred, the agency said.

United said in a separate statement that there were 231 passengers and 10 crew on board. The airline released no further details.

The Broomfield Police Department posted photos on Twitter showing large, circular pieces of debris leaning against a house in the suburb about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Denver. Police are asking that anyone injured come forward.

Tyler Thal, who lives in the area, told The Associated Press that he was out for a walk with his family when he noticed a large commercial plane flying unusually low and took out his phone to film it.

"While I was looking at it, I saw an explosion and then the cloud of smoke and some debris falling from it. It was just like a speck in the sky,



and as I'm watching that, I'm telling my family what I just saw and then we heard the explosion," he said in a phone interview. "The plane just kind of continued on, and we didn't see it after that."

Thal was relieved to learn later that the plane had made a safe landing.

Video posted on Twitter showed the engine fully engulfed in flames as the plane flew through the air.

Aviation safety experts said the

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 in Broomfield, Colorado.

Broomfield Police Department

plane appeared to have suffered an uncontained and catastrophic engine failure. Such an event is extremely rare and happens when huge spinning discs inside the engine suffer some sort of failure and breach the armored casing around the engine that is designed to contain the damage, said John Cox, an aviation safety expert and retired airline pilot who runs an aviation safety consulting firm called Safety Operating Systems.

"That unbalanced disk has a lot of force in it, and it's spinning at several thousand rotations per minute ... and when you have that much centrifugal force, it has to go somewhere," he said in a phone interview.

Pilots practice how to deal with such an event frequently and would have immediately shut off anything flammable in the engine, including fuel and hydraulic fluid using a single switch, Cox said.

Former National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Jim Hall called the incident just another example of "cracks in our culture in aviation safety (that) need to be addressed."

Hall, who was on the board from 1994-2001, has criticized the FAA over the past decade as "drifting to-

ward letting the manufacturers provide the aviation oversight that the public was paying for." That goes especially for Boeing, he said.

Despite the scary appearance of a flaming engine, most such incidents don't result in a loss of life, Cox said.

The last fatality on a U.S. airline flight involved such an engine failure on a Southwest Airlines flight from New York to Dallas in April 2018. A passenger was killed when the engine disintegrated more than 30,000 feet above Pennsylvania and debris struck the plane, breaking the window next to her seat. She was forced halfway out the window before other passengers pulled her back inside.

In that case, the breakdown was blamed on a broken fan blade in an engine of the Boeing 737. The Federal Aviation Administration ordered airlines to step up inspections of fan blades on certain engines made by CFM International, a joint venture of General Electric and France's Safran S.A.

In 2010, a Qantas Airbus A380 suffered a frightening uncontained engine failure shortly after takeoff from Singapore. Shrapnel from the engine damaged critical systems on the plane, but pilots were able to land safely. The incident was blamed on faulty manufacturing of a pipe in the Rolls Royce engine.

"The flames scare the hell out of everybody. But they are the least of the problem because you're going to get them put out and you're going to shut off everything that can burn," Cox said.

Portland Police launch team to investigate rise in shootings

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Portland Police said Friday they've created a specialized team of officers and detectives to focus full time on shooting investigations in response to a jump in gun violence in the last year.

The Enhanced Community Safety Team will be comprised of three sergeants, 12 officers and six detectives. They'll staff a seven member on-call unit to respond to shooting scenes, examine evidence, interview witnesses and do immediate follow-up investigations.

Sergeants will determine when to send out the on-call officers, Deputy Chief Chris Davis said.

The move is what Police Chief Chuck Lovell proposed in a December memo to Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner. Wheeler two weeks ago expressed support for the plan.

The estimated cost is \$153,348 through June and \$306,695 next fiscal year for a total of \$460,043.

Though a specific source of the funding hasn't been identified, the first on-call response

occurred Thursday, when a sergeant, two detectives and four officers responded to a shooting in North Portland, Davis said.

"We didn't want to wait because of the urgent need," Davis said. He acknowledged the Police Bureau would have preferred to have rolled out such a team much earlier as shootings rose last summer.

The city recorded 55 homicides in 2020, the highest number in 26 years. Forty-one of those resulted from gun violence, according to the Police Bureau.

The new team's focus will be on identifying and arresting what police suspect is a "narrow" group of repeat shooters, Davis said.

It will be different from the disbanded Gun Violence Reduction Team in that it will focus on the investigative side after shootings and less on uniformed patrol and interdiction, Davis said. The City Council last summer called for the elimination of the Gun Violence Reduction Team, citing concerns about the disproportionate arrests of people of color.

NEW ORLEANS AREA



Matthew Hinton/AP

Bystanders react Saturday at the scene of a multiple fatality shooting at the Jefferson Gun Outlet in Metairie, Louisiana.

3 dead in gun store shooting in Louisiana

BY STACEY PLAISANCE

Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — A person went into a gun store and shooting range in a New Orleans suburb and fatally shot two people Saturday, causing customers and staff to open fire on the shooter, said a sheriff. The shooter also died.

The shooting happened at the Jefferson Gun Outlet in the suburb of Metairie around 2:50 p.m., according to a release from the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Joseph Lopinto said the shooter initially hit two people inside, and then several other people — whether employees or store customers — opened fire on the shooter,

both inside and outside of the building. Outside the building a man could be seen behind the yellow police tape yelling "Where is my son?"

Guns and ammunition are sold in the front of the outlet that faces a main thoroughfare through Jefferson Parish. Customers who want to frequent the gun range generally go around to the side entrance of the building. Staff who work there often wear a sidearm.

Lopinto said two other people were also hit by gunfire and were hospitalized in stable condition. He said there were multiple shooters in all and investigators had just begun trying to piece together what had happened.

NORTHWEST OREGON

Goonies anniversary events are retired

BY KATIE FRANKOWICZ

The Astorian

Goonies never say die — except when they do.

The Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce will retire an event held every five years to celebrate the anniversary of the 1985 adventure comedy, "The Goonies." The movie, shot in Astoria and other locations on the North Coast, draws hundreds of fans to the area year-round — sometimes to the consternation of locals, especially those who live near the famous Goonies House.

The chamber could not go into detail about why it is retiring the popular June event but noted it had become increasingly difficult to entice former cast members to come to Astoria with growing competition from other, larger conventions and pop culture events.

Regina Wilkie, the chamber's marketing manager, described the decision as "taking a pause." She hopes to find ways to continue to offer Goonies-related events for visitors and fans —

perhaps hosted by other organizations and spread throughout the year instead of focused on or around June 7, Astoria's official Goonies Day.

No plans have been finalized. "Movie fans found their way to Astoria and delighted in their visits before we had these events, and we know you'll continue to do so without them," the chamber wrote in an email announcing the news.

"Whether planning to come in June to celebrate the end of the school year or October to stomp about in 'muddy trail season' or any time in between, you'll find yourself among friends who also enjoy seeing 'in real life' what has become so familiar on screen."

The chamber was due to celebrate the movie's 35th anniversary last year, but the coronavirus pandemic derailed plans for a large, in-person event. Celebrations unfolded online instead. Fans had hoped the chamber would plan a do-over in 2021.

"The Goonies," directed by Richard Donner with Steven

Spielberg as executive producer, is owned by Warner Bros. Entertainment. Past promotional materials for Astoria's Goonies Day events noted a partnership with Warner Bros. The chamber worked with the company to license Astoria-centric Goonies merchandise for more than 10 years.

Without an agreement of

their own in place with Warner Bros., other organizations interested in taking on their own Goonies celebrations will not be able to screen the movie or use things like the Goonies font on marketing materials or merchandise, noted McAndrew Burns, the executive director of the Clatsop County Historical Society.

A sign at Ecola State Park describes the scenes of "The Goonies" and "Kindergarten Cop" shot at the iconic viewpoint in Cannon Beach.

Edward Stratton/
The Astorian

Taylor Towery and the team at The Bulletin have been knowledgeable, attentive to our needs and delivered successful print and digital campaigns. We will continue to use them as we grow our business and expand throughout Oregon and look to them for advertising guidance. Thank you for your continued professionalism and kindness.

Very Sincerely,

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