DEADLY PLANE CRASH

Plane Crashed Into River in Taiwan

On February 4, 2015, there were 58 passengers onboard TransAsia Airways Flight 235 when the plane crashed into the Keelung River shortly after taking off from the Taipei Songshan Airport. There were 15 survivors from this dramatic crash where the plane hit a bridge and taxi cab prior to turning upside down and hitting the river.

"It's a mistake...There are procedures that pilots go through - safeguards - when you're going to shut down an engine, particularly close to the ground. Why that didn’t occur here, I don’t know."

- John M. Cox, former US Airways pilot and safety consultant

Problem Mapping

Problem(s)
- Plane crash

When
- Date: February 4, 2015
- Time: 10:54 A.M.

Where
- Facility, site: Keelung River, near Taipei Songshan Airport
- Unit, area, equipment: ATR 72-6000 twin turboprop
- Task being performed: Flying from Taipei to Kinmen

Impact to the Goals

- Safety
  - 40 killed, 15 injured, 3 missing
  - Safety Goal Impacted
  - Significant damage to plane
  - Property/Equipment Goal Impacted
  - Major investigation/recovery effort required

- Customer Service
  - Negative publicity for airline

- Regulatory
  - Carrier banned from adding new international flights

- Production/Schedule
  - At least 122 domestic flights canceled

- Property/Equipment
  - Damage to bridge and taxi

- Labor/Time
  - Major investigation/recovery effort required

Frequency
- 2nd fatal crash for TransAsia Airlines in a year

Analysis

- Damage to bridge and taxi
  - Hit by airplane
  - Effect
  - Cause

- 58 people onboard plane
  - Property/Equipment Goal Impacted
  - Regulatory Goal Impacted

- 40 killed, 15 injured, 3 missing
  - Evidence: Covered by international media

- Significant damage to plane
  - Evidence: Video, eye witness accounts
  - Previous aircraft crash
  - Evidence: A TransAsia plane crash in July 2014 killed 49
  - Previous safety concerns about airline
  - Evidence: Video, eye witness accounts

- Plane crashed into river
  - Evidence: Info from the flight data recorder shows an alarm registered 37 seconds after takeoff in the right engine
  - Plane had just taken off
  - Plane had just taken off

- One engine idled after takeoff
  - Mechanical failure?
  - Evidence: Info from the flight data recorder indicates the left engine was shut down by one of the pilots

- Pilot unable to restart second engine
  - Not enough time before crash
  - Plane was low to the ground

- Plane crashed
  - Plane crashed
  - Evidence: Media reports of accident

- Previous recent aircraft crash
  - Evidence: Media reports of accident

- Pilots unable to control plane
  - Both engines shut down

- Pilots being retrained and requalified
  - Concern over quality of pilot training
  - Pilot actions believed to have led to crash

- Plane could safety fly with one engine working