

Major Aviation Disasters

Presented by Gunnar J. Kuepper

**Strategies
To Save Lives and
Control the Incident**

Aviation Disaster strikes everywhere

- On airport premises
- in dense-populated areas
- in smaller cities
- in rural regions
- in water
- in mountains



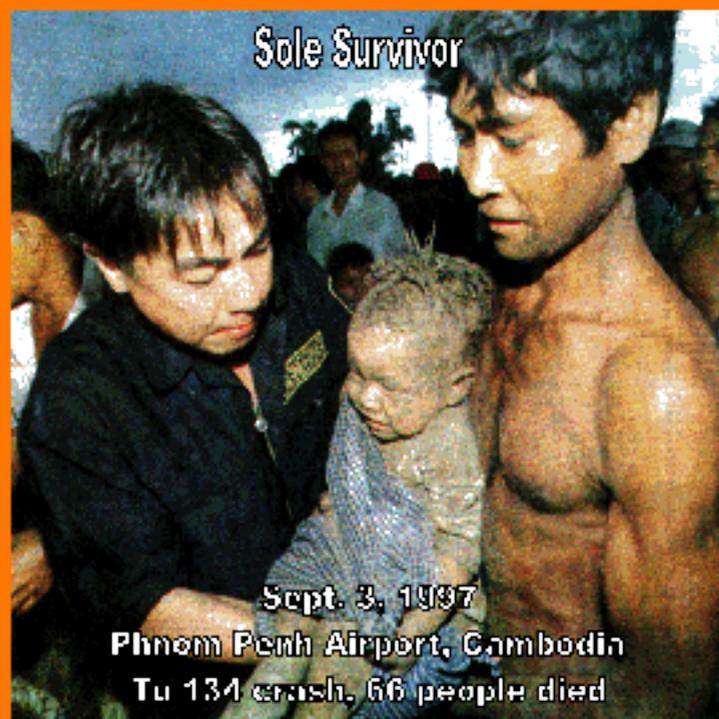
Pan-American Boeing 707 LOW-IMPACT Crash on January 30, 1974

- **On route from Auckland, New Zealand to Los Angeles, California**
- **Scheduled stop at Pago-Pago airport in American Samoa**
- **Crashed in stormy weather short of the runway**
- **101 PEOPLE aboard survived the impact unhurt**
- **But 97 persons perished due to the subsequent fire and smoke conditions**
- **Finally just 4 persons survived**



Common Problems

- **Lack of Planning**
- **Lack of Training**
- **Lack of Communication**
- **Lack of Coordination**
- **Lack of Resources**



Incident Priorities

- **Saving lives**
- **Preventing escalation & further damage**
- **Relieving pain & suffering**
- **Protecting property, the environment & the economy**
- **Maintaining essential services**
- **Informing the public**
- **Supporting recovery**
- **Facilitating investigation & their inquiries**
- **Evaluating activities & identifying lessons learned**
- **Restoring normalcy**



Airport/ Community Response Operations: Get to know your Neighbors

Aircraft Familiarization:

- **Design & Construction, Emergency Exits, Evacuation Procedures, Firefighting & Rescue Tactics, Hazards**

Airport Familiarization:

- **Access Routes & Gates, Staging areas & Rendezvous Points, Airport Environment & Buildings**
- **Airport Emergency Services: Capabilities, Staffing & Equipment**

EXCHANGE INFORMATION



Crisis Communications

Develop procedures to provide accurate and coordinated information to the media, affected public/ employees, etc.

“The media can become your best friend or your worst enemy in a crisis situation”

**Eschede, Northern Germany
National and International Media**



**High-Speed Train Crash, June 1998:
On-Site Press Conference**

Specific Hazards

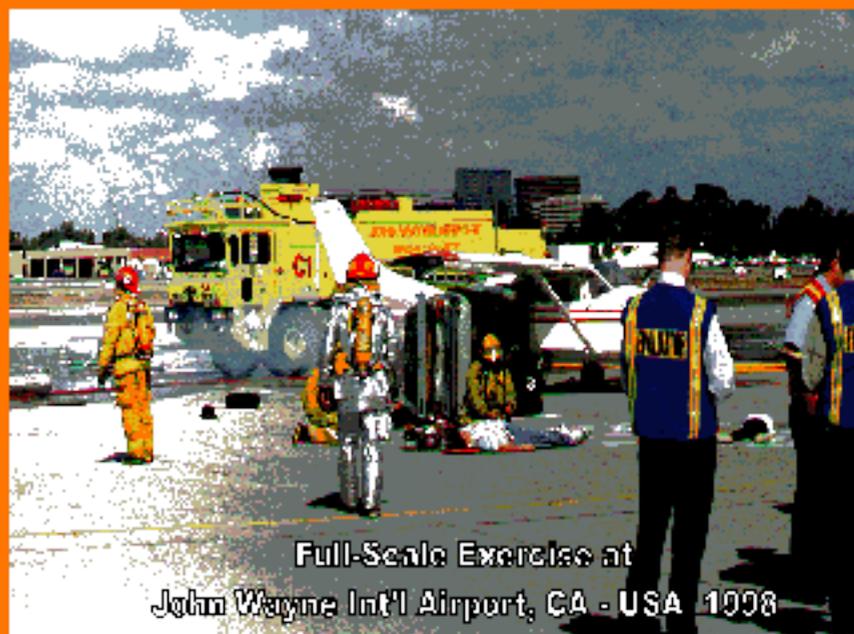
- **Jet fuel could always ignite**
- **Sharp metal debris could cut**
- **High pressure hydraulic lines**
- **Engine force could blast objects / people away**
- **Damaged aircraft structures could collapse and/or roll over**
- **Unknown Freight: radioactive materials, chemicals, biological samples**
- **Biohazmat: blood, tissue, feces, etc.**
- **Post traumatic stress disorder**



Training and Exercises

ON A REGULAR BASIS

- Joint Drills, Lectures, and Training
- Tabletop Exercises and Scenarios for Command Personnel
- Full Scale Exercises
- Performance Evaluations
- Review the Plan



Managing Major Aviation Disasters

Airplane crashes are often survivable. The final decision of life or death for its occupants is made by fast and skilled response. The only solution to saving lives and reducing the pain for our families, for our friends, for our colleagues, and for the people we do not even know yet, is joint planning and training, and a comprehensive emergency program. We are in charge of making the difference, and we should take that matter very seriously.

