
Lavatory fire, Douglas DC-9-32, January 31, 2000

Micro-summary: This Douglas DC-9-32 experienced a lavatory fire during passenger boarding.


Event Date: 2000-01-31 at 1645 CST


Investigative Body: National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), USA


Investigative Body's Web Site: <http://www.nts.gov/>

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		NTSB ID: CHI00IA087		Aircraft Registration Number: N203ME	
		Occurrence Date: 01/31/2000		Most Critical Injury: None	
		Occurrence Type: Incident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place MILWAUKEE		State WI	Zip Code 53201	Local Time 1645	Time Zone CST
Airport Proximity: On Airport		Distance From Landing Facility: 0		Direction From Airport: 0	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer McDonnell Douglas		Model/Series DC9-32		Type of Aircraft Airplane	
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On January 31, 2000, at 1645 central standard time, a McDonnell Douglas DC9-32, N203ME, operated by Midwest Express Airlines as flight 107, received minor damage during passenger boarding at the General Mitchell International Airport, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The flight was being conducted under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 121. No injuries were reported. It is not known how many passengers had boarded the aircraft at the time of the incident. The intended destination was the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport, Atlanta, Georgia.</p> <p>During passenger boarding the flight crew was advised of smoke coming from the passenger lavatory. The flight crew instructed the flight attendants to evacuate the aircraft. All passengers and crew members exited normally.</p> <p>Inspection of the aircraft following the incident revealed that wiring internal to the water heater was discolored and melted adjacent to a terminal within the unit. The wire exhibited evidence of chafing in the area next to the terminal screw. Additionally, it was found that the water heater installation was missing a grounding strap. The Federal Aviation Administration Inspector in conjunction with Midwest Express personnel determined that the missing grounding strap prevented the circuit breaker for the water heater from tripping. Subsequent to the incident, Midwest Express Airlines has inspected their DC9 aircraft to insure that the ground strap is present.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

		NTSB ID: CHI00IA087			
		Occurrence Date: 01/31/2000			
		Occurrence Type: Incident			
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
GENERAL MITCHELL INTL APT	MKE	Ft. MSL	0		
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Type Instrument Approach:					
VFR Approach/Landing:					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series		Serial Number	
McDonnell Douglas		DC9-32		47673	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 91	Certified Max Gross Wt.	110000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type:	Engine Manufacturer:	Model/Series:	Rated Power:		
Turbo Fan	P&W	JT8D-9A	14500 LBS		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection	Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection	Airframe Total Time		
Continuous Airworthiness	12/1999	77 Hours	60977 Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed?	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner		Street Address			
MIDWEST EXPRESS AIRLINES		6744 S. HOWELL AVE			
		City	State	Zip Code	
		OAK CREEK	WI	53154	
Operator of Aircraft		Street Address			
Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner		Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner			
		City	State	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As:			Operator Designator Code: MWEA		
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:					
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): Flag Carrier/Domestic					
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:		
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 121: Air Carrier					
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: CHI00IA087
	Occurrence Date: 01/31/2000
	Occurrence Type: Incident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth	Age
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Airline Transport

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s): Airplane Single-engine

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review?
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 01/2000
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- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	14932	9830	2489	12443	3691	712	131			
Pilot In Command(PIC)	10734	8026	2300	8456	2700	450	20			
Instructor	1740		1740		49	20				
Last 90 Days	180	180		180	85	5				
Last 30 Days	60	60		60	26	2				
Last 24 Hours										

Seatbelt Used?	Shoulder Harness Used?	Toxicology Performed?	Second Pilot? Yes
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: Unknown	
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Departure Point Same as Accident/Incident Location	State	Airport Identifier MKE	Departure Time 0000	Time Zone
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Destination Local Flight	State	Airport Identifier	
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Type of Clearance: None

Type of Airspace:

Weather Information

Source of Briefing:

Method of Briefing:

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Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
	0000		0 Ft. MSL	0 NM	0 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Unknown			0 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Not Reported	
Lowest Ceiling: Unknown		0 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 0 SM	Altimeter: "Hg	
Temperature: °C	Dew Point: °C	Wind Direction:		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed:	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site:			
Visibility (RVR): 0 Ft.	Visibility (RVV) 0 SM	Intensity of Precipitation: Unknown			
Restrictions to Visibility:					
Type of Precipitation:					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: Minor	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None

Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil					
- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot				1	1
Second Pilot				1	1
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants				4	4
Other Crew				1	1
Passengers				84	84
- TOTAL ABOARD -				91	91
Other Ground	0	0	0		0
- GRAND TOTAL -	0	0	0	91	91

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: CHI00IA087

Occurrence Date: 01/31/2000

Occurrence Type: Incident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

JOHN M. BRANNEN

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

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