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Continental Flight 3407 Disaster

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Lieff Cabraser represents the families of victims of commercial aviation accidents. Families whose loved ones died in the Buffalo plane crash are welcome to contact our law firm to learn more about their legal rights without any charge or obligation.

Facts about the Buffalo Plane Crash | Continental Flight 3407

At approximately 10:20 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2009, Continental Connection Flight 3407 was en route from Newark, New Jersey, to Buffalo Niagara International Airport when it went down and crashed into a suburban home 6 miles away from the airport.

The pilots on board discussed significant ice buildup on the windshield and leading edge of the wings, just before the plane disappeared from radar and plunged to the ground, killing 49 people aboard and one person on the ground.

According to preliminary information from the flight's cockpit voice and data recorders, the plane experienced "severe" pitching and rolling motions after the landing gear was lowered and wing flaps were set for the approach. Steve Chealander of the National Transportation Safety Board stated, "The crew attempted to raise the gear and [reset] flaps shortly before the recordings ended."

The plane's internal de-icing system was turned on during the approach for landing. The NTSB said the flight crew reported visibility was about 3 miles and there was snow and mist as they descended. Despite the inclement weather, other planes landed safely at the airport about the time the flight went down.

Investigating the Cause of Continental Flight 3407 Disaster

The NTSB will determine the most likely cause of the crash based upon the flight's data and voice recorders, weather reports, eyewitness reports and other information obtained from the crash site.

However, based upon the facts of the scene and information about the weather conditions that are currently available, certain scenarios may have occurred.

First, structural ice disrupts the airflow over an airplane wing, which reduces lift, adds weight and can cause an aircraft to stall at higher speeds than normal. Icing can also lead to engine failure when it blocks an engine's air intake or covers the carburetor, called induction system icing.

AVIATION

[Contact an aviation accident attorney](#): 1-800-541-7358 (ask to speak to attorneys Robert J. Nelson or Lexi J. Hazam)

[Frequently Asked Questions About Aviation Law](#)

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Second, forward motion creates airflow over a plane's wing, which due to its shape, generates lift and allows a plane to remain airborne. A stall occurs if the speed of the plane is too low to maintain lift.

Although Flight 3407 had deicing boots that were turned on, ice build up on other areas of the plane could have added considerable weight, affecting its balance and increasing the speed at which a stall can occur.

If only one wing experiences a stall, an airplane will roll steeply and turn abruptly towards the stalled wing. This is called a "spin," an especially dangerous occurrence when an airplane is close to the ground because pilots may not have enough time to correct the problem.

Spins are very violent maneuvers and the correct procedure is counter-intuitive. To recover from a spin, a pilot must push the controls forward to build up sufficient speed to stop the spin.

For the untrained pilot, the natural tendency is to do the opposite and pull the controls back and away from the ground. If a pilot pulls back on the controls, it will result in a crash with no forward motion after impact.

The Legal Rights of Victims and Families Whose Loved Ones Die in Aviation Accidents

We appreciate that this is a time of deep pain and grieving for the families of those who perished as a result of Continental Airlines Flight 3407. At the same time, you will have questions concerning your legal rights, compensation that is available to you, and the duties and legal responsibility of Continental or others.

For answers to frequently asked questions concerning aviation accidents, [please click here](#).

Contact Premier Aviation Law Attorneys & Lawyers

Lieff Cabraser represents families of victims of the aviation accidents. Families whose loved ones died in the Continental crash in Buffalo are welcome to [contact Lieff Cabraser](#) to learn more about their legal rights without any charge or obligation.

Please telephone us toll-free at 1-800-541-7358 and ask to speak to attorneys Robert J. Nelson or Lexi J. Hazam or [send an email message to our law firm](#).

About Lieff Cabraser

Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP is a fifty-plus attorney law firm that has represented plaintiffs nationwide since 1972. We have offices in San Francisco, New York and Nashville. We represent plaintiffs in class and group actions and in individual lawsuits in cases involving substantial losses. For the last six years, the *National Law Journal* has selected Lieff Cabraser as one of the top plaintiffs' law firms in the nation.

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