

CRASH OF CONTINENTAL CONNECTION FLIGHT 3407

- Accident Overview
- Passengers and Crew
- Preliminary Investigation
- Aircraft Information
- Operator information

Accident Overview

On Thursday February 12, 2009, at approximately 10:20 p.m. Continental Airlines Flight 3407 crashed into a suburban Buffalo home killing everyone aboard and one person in the home. The twin turboprop aircraft was coming in for a landing when it went down in light snow and fog about five miles short of the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Continental Connection Flight 3407 originated in Newark, N.J. and was bound for Buffalo Niagara International Airport.



Passengers and Crew

The plane was carrying 44 passengers, a 4 member crew and an off-duty pilot. The accident killed all 49 people on the plane and a person in the house. Four other people were also injured at the crash site, including a mother and daughter who were inside the house. They suffered minor injuries and were treated and released from a Williamsville hospital.

Preliminary Investigation

National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Administration inspectors arrived on the scene early Friday February 13, 2008. The first task for the 14 investigators will be retrieving the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder from the wreckage. NTSB Senior Air Safety Investigator Lorenda Ward will serve as Investigator-in-Charge of the team comprised of approximately a dozen NTSB investigators. NTSB Member Steven Chealander is accompanying the team and will serve as principal spokesman for the on-scene investigation.

The Federal Aviation Administration, Colgan Air, and the Air Line Pilots Association will be parties to the NTSB's investigation as well. Since the aircraft and engines were manufactured in Canada, and the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) of Canada has appointed an Accredited Representative who will arrive on scene along with technical advisors from TSB, Bombardier Aerospace and Pratt & Whitney Canada. The investigation could take as much as year or more before issuing a final report.

On Friday February 13, 2009 Federal investigators found the black box recorders in the plane's tail and have sent them to Washington for examination.



Aircraft Information

The aircraft involved in the accident was a year-old Bombardier Dash 8-Q400 twin-engine turboprop with registration N200WQ. The plane is listed as being capable of carrying 78 passengers. No prior incidents regarding that aircraft have been reported. The plane was built in Toronto and FAA records indicate it received its most recent certificate of airworthiness in April. The engines were manufactured by Pratt & Whitney Canada.



Operator Information

The Continental Connection flight was operated by Memphis-based Pinnacle Airlines Corp.'s subsidiary of Colgan Air Inc. Memphis-based Pinnacle Airlines Corp. (NASDAQ: PNCL) is an airline holding company and is the parent company of Pinnacle Airlines Inc. and Colgan Air Inc. It is the largest regional airline operating at Memphis International Airport. According to U.S. Federal Aviation Administration records Colgan Air Inc., Continental's carrier, operates 15 of the Q400's

Continental operates flights to destinations throughout the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific regions. It has more than 3,000 daily departures, serving 151 domestic and 120 international destinations and has 42,200 employees. Principal operations are from its three hubs at Newark Liberty International Airport (in Newark, New Jersey), George Bush Intercontinental Airport (in Houston, Texas), and Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (in Cleveland, Ohio).

Nolan Law Group
20 North Clark 30th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph 312.630.4000
Fx 312.630.4011

Disclaimer © Nolan Law Group 2009

a