

## Scenario 3: Air Crash

### SITUATION:

A Boeing 737 that has experienced inexplicable in-flight engine problems will need to make an emergency landing at a large airport. Though plans have been made to land at a city 200 miles to the north, the latest communication with the pilot is that the plane has lost engine power and is losing altitude too quickly to reach the planned airport. Though your city airport is actually too small to handle the aircraft, the only hope of saving any of the 135 passengers and crew is to attempt a landing.

Conditions at the airport are clear, but the surrounding area is very dry due to a sustained rainless period. A hot, dry wind is also a factor.

The main runway is in a relatively unpopulated suburban area. However, the likelihood of the pilot being able to control the plane and stay within the assigned glide path is slim. The plane's approach passes over populated suburban housing developments.

The airport tower control alerts its own Crash/Fire Rescue (CFR) units and requests that local emergency services provide backup assistance with fire, police, medical, health and welfare, and search and rescue capabilities.

Garbled radio communication from the airliner alerts tower control that an engine has dropped off the aircraft. Hydraulic control has been lost. The pilot finally radios that he will attempt a soft impact landing but the aircraft breaks apart on impact. Debris and bodies are scattered the length of the runway, with the tail section near the point of touchdown. There is visible smoke. The aircraft's nose section skids to a stop beyond the end of the runway. Some passengers are seen escaping from the fuselage via slides. CFR units proceed to the main crash site. Traffic on the highway within sight of the crash becomes congested as drivers slow and some stop and leave their vehicles to run to the crash site. A number of traffic accidents are being reported.

### CONDITIONS:

The weather is mild. The local temperature is 68 degrees. There is a wind from the south at 10 mph.

### PROBLEM:

Seventy-five passengers require immediate hospitalization and 16 slightly injured passengers will need guidance and transportation to the terminal. The remainder of the passengers and the entire crew perished on impact or during the resulting fire.

**POTENTIAL HAZARDS:**

- Explosion and fire
- Traffic
- Injury to well-meaning citizen-volunteers

**ASSUMED CONDITIONS:**

[NOTE: This activity is designed without a specified size of impacted community.]

The activity assumes decision-making at an EOC or similar facility, in addition to those decisions made on the scene. The following events have been identified as critical to this scenario:

- Fire crash and rescue
- Victim identification
- Mortuary services
- Debris clearance
- Public information
- Outside assistance decisions and request procedures