

Lesson 3

READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

Air Crashes

Airplanes are one of the safest methods of transportation. The volume of air traffic grows larger each year.

Plane crashes rarely happen but when they do occur, there is a lot of coverage by the media. Most plane crashes occur shortly after takeoff or while landing. Government experts rush to the area to discover why the disaster occurred.

Often the reason for the crash is obscure. Sometimes it is determined that mistakes were made by the crew. Some plane crashes are blamed on unexpected events of nature causing changes in the speed and direction of the wind. Sometimes the pilot has lost radio contact with the air traffic controllers.

Investigators may discover that the airlines were deficient in keeping track of needed repairs. Because new planes cost millions of dollars, airlines continue to use planes that are quite old. Older planes must be continuously upgraded and properly maintained in order to carry passengers safely.

Once the experts discover the cause, they may be able to eliminate future disasters.