

Engine failure on Jet Airways A340

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Authorities at Mumbai's international airport and relatives of passengers heaved a collective sigh of relief when a Jet Airways Airbus A-340-300E made a safe landing on Sunday, August 13, 2006 despite mid-air engine failure. Flight number W9-117 (London-Mumbai) was coming towards the city when the pilot contacted air traffic control at 11.35 am, saying one of the plane's four engines had failed and asking for a priority landing.

Immediately, emergency services including doctors, ambulances, the fire brigade and local police were summoned to assist Central Industrial Security Force personnel and the in-house fire department. "The craft made a smooth landing at 12.22 pm, powered by the remaining three engines," said a Jet Airways employee. All 198 passengers, including four infants, exited the plane safely. However, the return flight - W9-118 (Mumbai-London) - was cancelled as the aircraft was grounded for repairs and a follow-up inquiry.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Director (Air Safety) P. Shaw added: "The engine has been removed for inspection. We have also instituted an inquiry into the incident, but there was no cause for panic as three engines are sufficient for a safe landing." The priority landing, however, heightened tension at the airport, which has been on red alert since a terror plot involving trans-Atlantic flights from the UK to the US was foiled.