

Video Footage Rescue Timeline of the Crash of US Airways Flight 1549

BY JUNG CHO AND CHARLES JENNINGS

Using video footage from a security camera atop a Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) facility in midtown Manhattan, researchers at the Christian Regenhard Center for Emergency Response Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice were able to reconstruct the incident second by second, watching the incident unfold. The camera captured the entire rescue effort, commencing as the aircraft came to a "stop" on the Hudson River (the plane continued to drift downriver).

An analysis of the footage reveals some important facts: The escape of the crew and passengers was conducted without assistance of any rescuers, and the subsequent

removal of these crash victims off the aircraft's wings and onto waterborne vessels relied heavily on private sector vessels, particularly ferries. This raises important questions concerning the need to integrate private vessels into emergency response plans on waterways, particularly near major cities. In addition, the footage itself emphasizes the value in using security camera videos for research and training after an incident.

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Elapsed Time from Beginning of Tape (Seconds)	Events
0 - Beginning of the tape	Recording begins.
Approx. 11 Seconds	Camera spots the aircraft.
Approx. 20 Seconds	Camera view zooms onto the aircraft—no activity from the aircraft.
Approx. 30 Seconds	Aircraft's forward starboard door is opened.
Approx. 33 Seconds	Escape slide is deployed from the starboard side.
Approx. 39 Seconds	It appears the first person has escaped from the starboard side.
Approx. 47 Seconds	Camera angle adjustment—aircraft continuously floats and moves toward the left side of the camera view.
Approx. 51 Seconds	Port side door is opened, and the first person escapes (on the starboard side, passengers are continually escaping).
Approx. 149 Seconds (2 mins 29 sec)	Camera zooms out and a boat is spotted—a ship approaching the aircraft.
Approx. 171 Seconds (2 mins 51 sec)	On the starboard side of the aircraft, it appears everyone has escaped.
Approx. 235 Seconds (3 mins 55 sec)	Camera angle adjusted; a ship has arrived on the starboard side of the aircraft and makes the first contact with the aircraft passengers and crew. Two rescuers are standing in front of the ship.
Approx. 239 Seconds (3 mins 59 sec)	Camera angle zooms, making it impossible to observe any details.
Approx. 273 Seconds (4 mins 33 sec)	Distribution of rescue equipment (presuming the life vests) begins.
Approx. 320 Seconds (5 mins 20 sec)	First aircraft passengers and crew are brought onto the ship.
Approx. 348 Seconds (6 mins 48 sec)	Another ship approaches from the port side of the aircraft.
Approx. 397 Seconds (6 mins 37 sec)	Second ship (the one on port side) makes its first contact with the aircraft passengers and crew.
Approx. 429 Seconds (7 mins 9 sec)	A third ship approaches the rear of the aircraft.
Approx. 438 Seconds (7 mins 18 sec)	A fourth ship arrives on the starboard side of the aircraft.
Approx. 472 Seconds (7 mins 52 sec)	A fifth ship approaches.
Approx. 505 Seconds (8 mins 25 sec)	It appears that some aircraft passengers and crew are in a small rubber boat.
Approx. 537 Seconds (8 mins 57 sec)	On the port side of the aircraft, it appears that everyone has escaped.
Approx. 587 Seconds (9 mins 47 sec)	A ship leaves the scene.
Approx. 590 Seconds (9 mins 50 sec)	The camera spots a sixth ship coming toward the scene.
Approx. 600 Seconds (10 mins)	The video ends.