

# 737 engine fire checklist

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### Procedures for an Engine Fire in Flight\*\*

In the event of an engine fire in flight, the following steps should be taken by the pilots:

- **Pull the engine fire handle:** This shuts off fuel to the affected engine and triggers the fire suppression system.
- **Feather the propeller (if applicable):** This reduces drag and improves controllability.
- **Establish an appropriate heading and altitude:** Maintain a direction and height that facilitate safe maneuvering and fire containment.
- **Monitor engine parameters:** Check for abnormal readings, such as increased temperature or vibration, to assess the severity of the fire.
- **Communicate with air traffic control:** Report the engine fire and request assistance or priority landing.
- **Prepare for a possible evacuation:** Inform passengers, secure cabin equipment, and direct them to the nearest emergency exits if the situation warrants it.

### Engine Fire Bottles on a 737

A Boeing 737 typically has six engine fire bottles, three per engine, which contain Halon or other fire suppressant agents.

### Engine Failure vs. Flameout

An engine failure occurs when the engine stops functioning due to mechanical or electrical problems. A flameout, on the other hand, is a sudden loss of flame in the engine's combustor, causing the engine to stop producing thrust. Flameouts can be caused by factors such as fuel starvation or engine surge.

### **Hazard Areas of a 737 Engine**

- **Inlet:** The area where air enters the engine, which may become a fire hazard if debris or fuel accumulates.
- **Combustor:** The section where fuel is burned and mixed with air to create thrust, which is highly susceptible to fire due to the presence of flammable gases and high temperatures.
- **Exhaust:** The area where hot gases from the combustor are expelled, which can create a fire risk if debris or fuel collects.

### **Pilot Actions During an Engine Fire**

- Immediately pull the engine fire handle.
- Feather the propeller (if applicable).
- Maintain control of the aircraft by adjusting heading, altitude, and airspeed.
- Monitor engine parameters and communicate with air traffic control.
- Extinguish the fire using fire suppression agents and isolate the damaged engine.

### **Fire Protection on a 737 Engine**

In addition to fire bottles, 737 engines incorporate various fire protection measures, including:

- Fire detectors to alert pilots to the presence of a fire.
- Firewalls to prevent fire from spreading between engine compartments.
- Fire-resistant insulation to minimize heat transfer and protect sensitive components.

### **Fuel Used by a 737**

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Boeing 737 aircraft typically burn Jet A-1 fuel, a type of kerosene-based aviation fuel.

### **Igniters per Engine on a 737**

A Boeing 737 engine typically has two igniters, which generate sparks to ignite the fuel-air mixture in the combustor.

### **Recovery from a Flameout**

Recovery from a flameout is possible in some cases, depending on the cause and the severity of the event. Pilots can attempt to restart the engine by following specific procedures, such as re-establishing fuel flow and igniting the flame.

### **Causes of Engine Flameout**

Engine flameouts can occur due to various factors, including:

- Fuel starvation (e.g., due to pump failure or fuel contamination)
- Engine surge (e.g., caused by rapid changes in engine airflow)
- Compressor stall (e.g., from debris ingestion or excessive load)
- Ignition system failure
- Loss of electrical power

### **Severity of Engine Flameout**

An engine flameout can range in severity from a minor inconvenience to a serious safety risk. The impact depends on factors such as the engine's condition, the aircraft's operating conditions, and the pilot's ability to recover.

### **Safest Part of a 737**

The safest part of a Boeing 737 aircraft is typically considered to be the rear, behind the wings. This area is farther away from potential impact zones and is less likely to be affected by engine failures or other structural damage.

### **Seats to Avoid on a Boeing 737**

Some seats on a Boeing 737 may be less desirable or safe during an emergency, such as:

- Rows near the wings, as they are more exposed to potential wing damage.
- Seats in the front, as they are closer to the impact zone in the event of a crash.

### **Largest Operator of 737**

Southwest Airlines is the largest operator of the Boeing 737 aircraft, with a fleet of over 700.

### **Additional Information:**

- Critical engines: A critical engine is one whose failure would result in a significant loss of control or stability. A Boeing 737 does not typically have a critical engine.
- Fire extinguishers in plane engines: In addition to fire bottles, aircraft engines may have portable fire extinguishers for use by ground crews.
- Fire signal on plane engine: In the event of a fire, a fire signal is displayed on the pilot's instrument panel and in the cockpit.
- Range of 737 without refueling: The range of a Boeing 737 varies depending on the model and configuration but can typically exceed 3,000 nautical miles.
- Diesel in 737: Boeing 737 aircraft do not run on diesel fuel.
- Dumping fuel in 737: Boeing 737 aircraft can dump fuel in emergencies to reduce weight and improve handling.
- ABC checklist in aviation: The ABC checklist refers to Aviation Basic Checklist, which is a set of standard procedures used in emergency situations, including engine fires, engine failures, and other malfunctions.
- ABCD checklist in aviation: The ABCD checklist includes the following steps:
  - Assess the situation
  - Brief the crew

- Communicate the problem
- Dispatch assistance

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