

Immigrant crushed to death on escalator

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Body

An elderly Cuban **immigrant** taking her first steps in the United States was **crushed** to **death** Sunday in an **escalator** accident at Miami International Airport, police said. At least five other passengers were injured. Bertola Agrispina Acosta-Bereda, 75, was killed under the weight of other passengers as they fell on an **escalator** to the U.S. Customs Service and immigration offices, said police officer Ralph Fernandez. "As they came up the **escalator**, someone fell, causing other people to fall. It was a domino effect," he said. It was not immediately clear whether the **escalator** malfunctioned or whether the **immigrants'** unfamiliarity with the machinery prompted the fall, police said. "It's possible they've never seen an **escalator** before," Fernandez said. Airport spokeswoman Amalia Fernandez said the six arrived on an Eastern Airlines flight, a weekly charter from Havana bringing Cuban **immigrants** to the United States and exiles home from visits to the island. At least five people, including the dead woman's husband, were taken to Jackson Memorial Hospital, said Fernandez, who declined to release the husband's name. Sam Cratis, duty administrator at the hospital, said all were in stable condition, but he refused to describe their injuries. Fernandez said Ms. Acosta-Bereda and her husband were moving to Miami.

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