

Boeing 767-300, N657UA

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INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Boeing 767-300, N657UA

No & Type of Engines: 2 Pratt & Whitney PW4060 turbofan engines

Year of Manufacture: 1993

Date & Time (UTC): 18 November 2000 at 0900 hrs

Location: London Heathrow Airport

Type of Flight: Public Transport (Passenger)

Persons on Board: Crew - 12 - Passengers - 97

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Water heater overheated

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 10,000 hours (of which 3,000 were on type)
Last 90 days - 210 hours
Last 28 days - 70 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After take off from London Heathrow, members of the cabin crew observed smoke emanating from the right-hand business class toilet. They discharged a Halon fire extinguisher into the toilet waste disposal shoot and advised the flight crew of a possible fire. The commander declared an emergency to ATC and requested that the emergency services standby to meet the aircraft upon its return to Heathrow.

Following an uneventful landing back at Heathrow, the smoke stopped. Airport Fire Service personnel then boarded the aircraft and inspected the toilet in question, but found no evidence of a fire.

The operator's maintenance organisation later advised that the toilet's water heater had developed a short-circuit which had caused overheating and the smoke which had been observed by the cabin crew. The water heater was replaced.