

## Veteran Airline Captains About the August 2008 Crash of a Spanair MD82

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Agency: **AirSafe.com, LLC**

Sep 24, 2008 – In the days following last month's fatal crash of a Spanair MD82 in Madrid, Spain, there was tremendous public interest in the event, but the quality of information available to the public was sometimes lacking.

News media organizations in US and Europe provided extensive coverage of the accident, but sometimes the coverage was based more on speculation than on facts. Dr. Todd Curtis, the founder of the airline safety site AirSafe.com, filled some of that information gap with interviews of three veteran airline pilots, all of whom have had years of experience flying with major US airlines.

One interview featured Capt. Patrick Smith, who in addition to being an airline pilot is also the author of "Ask the Pilot" column on Slate.com. Dr. Curtis and Capt. Smith discussed several crash-related issues, including the quality of media coverage of the event, and provided some insights into what areas may be important in the ongoing investigation.

A second interview featured two airline pilots, Capt. Tom Bunn of the SOAR fear of flying organization, and Capt. Steve Fisher who has had several years of experience flying the MD80 series aircraft. Capt. Fisher discussed the mechanics of flying a large jet transport, especially what happens in emergency procedures like a rejected takeoff. Capt. Bunn shared some of the feedback he received from airline passengers who expressed anxiety about flying, especially flying on an MD80 aircraft.

For additional information on this crash, including preliminary findings from the accident investigation, additional AirSafe.com reports about the accident, and additional airline safety and security information, visit [spanair.airsafe.org](http://spanair.airsafe.org).

About AirSafe.com:

AirSafe.com is a comprehensive resource for understanding aviation safety and security issues and created to provide both the traveling public and aviation safety and security professionals with both objective and timely information on aviation safety and security, especially events involving airline passenger fatalities. Since 1996, AirSafe.com has been an innovator in making critical risk assessment and risk management information to the public, enabling both airline passengers and aviation professionals to make accurate judgments about the risks of flying. Whether it is through its web sites, audio podcasts, online discussions, or published research, AirSafe.com continues to be at the forefront of getting useful aviation safety and security information to the aerospace industry and to the general public.

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