

Aviation Safety Bulletin

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Subject :

One Airlines' MD-90 aircraft unexpected forward movement hitting the tow truck during the engine start process resulted in gashes on the nose radome and left fuselage.

Background :

1. After embarkation, an Airlines' MD-90 aircraft was cleared for push back from bay 15, Kao-Hsiung airport. While in the yellow line, the aircraft taxied forward in an abrupt manner and hit the tow truck. The incident resulted in the occurrence of gashes on the nose radome and left front fuselage. But the structure and hydraulic system remained intact. Later on, the aircraft was released by the maintenance after procedural inspection.
2. From the finding of investigation, the main cause of the incident was that the flight crew performed a perfunctory "COCKPIT PREPARATION CHECK" in which the throttle should have been placed at "IDLE POSITION." Meanwhile, the co-pilot failed to scan the engine parameters in time and to remind of the indications to the captain during which period.

Recommendation :

1. Emphasize the conceptualization of "FOLLOWING THE STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURE" for the flight crewmembers until being indoctrinated by forming a natural behavior earmarked by the flow of "CALLED OUT BY MOUTH, SPOTTED BY EYES, and CONFIRMED BY HAND."
2. Thorough application of simulator training should enable crewmember to cope with abnormal engine start operation.
3. Enhance flight crews CRM training and improve their crosscheck function.