

## Aviation Safety Bulletin

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Subject :

### ABNORMAL CABIN PRESSURE CAUSED EARDRUM INJURY TO A PASSENGER DURING TAXI.

Background :

1. An MD-90 of a domestic Airline experienced abnormal differential cabin pressure (approximately 8 psi) during taxi for take off. After consulting the QRH and MEL, the crew contacted maintenance via company radio for assistance. As the abnormality persisted, the captain decided to return to the ramp and shut down. There were 88 passengers on board, and the eardrum of one passenger was injured. The passenger was subsequently sent for treatment.
2. It was found in the preliminary investigation that the crew was not fully conversant with the cabin pressurization system, which led to failure to resolve the problem when it was first encountered.

Recommendation :

1. That crews be fully familiarized with aircraft systems in order to resolve such problems in an optimal manner.
2. That simulator training in cabin differential pressure and air conditioning system monitoring be provided, to reinforce correct abnormality responses.
3. The effect of abnormal cabin pressure on passengers should be minimized and appropriate procedures listed in the syllabi for cabin crew training.
4. Maintenance should periodically check air-conditioning and cabin pressure systems per required procedure and keep on monitoring any abnormalities.