

FedEx 1407, February 24  
MEM>MSP, N584FE  
Divert to STL with FSS discharge indication

At cruise, FL360, direct Waterloo (ALO), about 80 miles past STL, we received an FSS Discharge indication. At that time, the two jumpseaters also contacted us by interphone and stated the FSS had fired in position 1C. Since I did the Haz can inspection before departure, I knew that the SAX "contour" can was in positions 1C/1R. The Captain and I discussed the situation and agreed to divert. Since we had just passed STL, we knew it was VMC and at our 4 o'clock position. We also discussed the long runways suitable for MD-11 operation. We began the divert process, and originally planned on a runway 30L arrival. The wind was light out of the northwest, so we took runway 12L arrival to get on the ground sooner. The tailwind component was about 1 knot. We told STL Approach and Tower that we would exit the runway at the first available left and evacuate the aircraft there. That happened to be taxiway K. We reviewed the EVAC checklist before landing. After landing, the captain called for the EVAC checklist and I read the checklist aloud. We complied with the EVAC checklist, and prepared ourselves for the EVAC in the courier area. I performed the emergency door/slide opening procedure at the L1 door. The slide did not appear to correctly deploy. I noticed a light wind blowing from the left side of the aircraft (straight toward the slide). Both jumpseaters also stated that the slide did not look right. I reached down and tugged on the slide where it looked like it had hung up. It appeared to more fully deploy. I noticed there was no smoke present, and I waited for the hissing of the inflating slide to stop. I turned and asked the Captain if we were going to go out this way? The Captain said that he saw no alternative! I went down the slide, as we are trained, but the slide did little or nothing to slow my fall to the ground. It felt like it wrapped around me instead of sustaining me. I hit the ground and knew I was injured. I felt a jarring or crunching feeling in my back. Once I hit, I was concerned that the next person was coming down the slide on top of me. I "log rolled" away from the slide. I was in excruciating pain. As I was lying on the ground, a firefighter asked if I could get up. I said no, and asked him to get an ambulance. He responded that they would call one and that it would arrive as soon as possible. I lay largely unattended and on the ground until the Captain and jumpseaters evacuated and began to provide some assistance. They tried to help me stay warm by giving me their gloves and hat. Only then, did the fire rescue personnel start to help me. They put a fire jacket on me and wrapped me in a fire blanket until the Emergency Squad arrived.