



10.4 EVACUATION CRITERIA

Whether planned or unplanned, the decision to do an emergency evacuation must be made by a crewmember. The following must be taken into consideration:

A. NECESSITY OF EVACUATION

Is it in the best interest of the passengers to get out of the aircraft? Injuries often result while passengers are evacuating. If the aircraft is still intact and the emergency is under control, evacuation may not be necessary.

This situation may occur in an aborted takeoff or runway incursion.

B. BEST WAY TO EVACUATE

This decision will be made by the F/A's in most cases. They will command the passengers to proceed to the nearest, most accessible and usable exit.

C. WHO WILL DECIDE

Preferably the Captain decides if an evacuation is necessary. However, the decision will rest upon the F/A's should a signal from the cockpit not be received.

Normally the Captain decides in a planned emergency, while the decision typically rests with the F/A in an unplanned emergency.

The causes of accidents are never determined at the time they occur.

Every phase of the operation is investigated and a report placing cause of responsibility is the end result. Only the National Transportation Safety Board in Washington, D.C issues a final report on the incident.

The press will attempt to get statements from the crew. As a Flight Attendant, you can safely make one (1) statement verbatim:

"NO COMMENT".

Never voice an opinion with statements such as: "It looks like ice was heavy on the wings" or "one (1) engine sounded funny." Newspapers immediately play up such statements giving readers the impression this was the cause when the official investigation proves that it had nothing to do with it.

We are not withholding information in any way from the public, but we must be sure any statements are official and accurate.