

Federal investigators probe fiery Amazon cargo jet crash that killed 5 in Miami

BY DAVID FISCHER, MARC LEVY AND JEFFREY COLLINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — The five people killed when an Amazon cargo jet ran off a runway at Miami International Airport were all inside a van carrying seven people from a cleaning company, and an SUV hit outside of airport property, National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy said Monday.

Homendy called the scene of Sunday's crash "utter devastation." She didn't detail how many people were in the SUV or where the dead were located.

Homendy walked the route the Boeing 767 followed, noting tire marks from the pavement into the grass, the destroyed van carrying the cleaning crew, torn fencing, navigational equipment, and the crushed SUV outside airport property.

The debris included vehicle air bags, equipment from the vehicles, the airplane and the airport, and "fencing everywhere," Homendy said.

"It's pretty extensive. Hard to see and I'm sure it must have been very difficult for the responders as well," Homendy said.

The airline, all told, trav-

eled about 1,300 feet (396 meters) past the paved surface. Debris was everywhere, she said.

"I would describe it in one word as devastating, utter devastation," Homendy said.

The van with seven people inside was "torn apart. It certainly must have been devastating," she said. The van was owned by Professional Ocean Service Corp., an airline cleaning contractor.

Homendy said the NTSB would issue more information on Tuesday, including possibly information on speed that is confirmed by the flight data recorder.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATORS EXAMINING CAUSE OF DEADLY OVERRUN

Federal investigators examining the crash spent Monday determining whether the plane touched down too late to stop safely.

Video of Sunday's landing appears to show the Boeing 767 remaining airborne well down the runway before touching down. Aviation experts said investigators will seek to determine exactly where the plane landed, whether it was beyond the normal touchdown zone, and why the pilots did not abandon the landing.



Lynne Sladky | Associated Press

An Amazon cargo plane sits at the Miami International Airport (MIA) on Monday after it overshot the runway on Sunday in Miami.

Investigators will also examine the plane's speed and braking, weather and wind conditions, the aircraft's mechanical condition and other factors that could have contributed to the deadly overrun.

The aircraft on Sunday flew from Cincinnati to Miami and then to San Juan, Puerto Rico. It was returning to Miami when it overran the runway around 2 p.m. and plowed across a road used by warehouse workers and other businesses that surround the airport.

Aside from the five who died, three people were critically injured and two others were hospitalized with less

severe injuries, officials said.

The crash, which sent thick black smoke billowing into the sky, trapped the pilot and copilot in the cockpit and some occupants in cars, said Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Chief Ray Jadallah. The agency said crews also had to extricate a person who was trapped under a vehicle.

The typical landing zone for a plane is within the first 3,000 feet (914 meters) of a runway, experts said. If the cargo jet was beyond that area, it should have aborted the landing and gone around for another try, aviation safety expert Steve Arroyo said.

Crypto scammers' spending spree ends after \$240M bitcoin theft

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — They pulled off one of the largest cryptocurrency thefts in U.S. history, duping a stranger out of bitcoin worth over \$240 million. They tried to hide their digital fingerprints, carrying out a sophisticated scheme to launder the proceeds.

And then the party started.

The scammers — a network of young men in their late teens or early 20s — celebrated the August 2024 heist by embarking on a wild spending spree. They purchased fleets of sports cars, flew on private jets, hired security guards and rented mansions in Miami and the Hamptons. An alleged ringleader, 22-year-old Malone Lam, spent over \$569,000 in one evening at a Los Angeles night club.

Their bender lasted a month before FBI agents arrested Lam on charges that he organized a "social engineering" attack on the Washington, D.C., resident. Lam, an eighth-grade dropout from Singapore, has a plea agreement hearing set for Tuesday. His conviction would be a capstone for the government's investigation.

The charges against Lam and 17 others are an extreme example of an increasingly common form of cybercrime. Complaints of cryptocurrency investment fraud to the FBI rose by nearly 50% in 2025, while Republican President Donald Trump's administration largely abandoned a regulatory crackdown on the volatile industry.

Last year, the Justice Department disbanded a unit dedicated to prosecuting crypto-related crimes. Meanwhile, crypto companies that complained of unfair treatment during Democratic President Joe Biden's presidency are enjoying the government's hands-off approach under Trump, who took in roughly \$1.2 billion from his crypto businesses in 2025.

Cybersecurity researcher Allison Nixon, who has spent years tracking The Com, an underground subculture of young hackers united by the "insane amount of money" that crypto fraud can generate, advocates for more law enforcement resources to

go after them.

"If we don't seriously ramp up the resources to take these people down and do it faster, then it's going to spread more and more," she said.

SCAMMERS NABBED MILLIONS THOUGH 'SOCIAL ENGINEERING' HEIST

A man identified as "Victim 7" in court filings was at home in Washington on Aug. 18, 2024, when his phone rang. The first caller identified himself as a Google representative inquiring about attempts to breach his account. A second, claiming to be from the Gemini crypto exchange, warned the man of a malware attack affecting his crypto wallet.

The callers manipulated the man into giving them access to his Google Drive and revealing security codes that allowed Lam to siphon off over 4,100 bitcoin, according to prosecutors. They said Lam and his friends on the calls — Veer Chetal and Jeandiel Serrano — targeted the man because he was a wealthy, longtime crypto investor.

A private recording captured the moment when the friends realized how much money they just stole, according to a video posted by a well-known private investigator of cryptocurrency crimes who goes by ZachXBT.

"Oh, my God! Bro, bro, I'm going to spaz out!" a voice on the video said.

Once they swiped the man's savings, they used money laundering specialists to wash it through multiple exchange platforms and convert virtual currency into government-issued cash.

It wasn't the first social engineering scam for the friends, who met in online gaming forums. They had teamed up on other multi-million-dollar thefts since late 2023 using a similar playbook, according to prosecutors.

This time, however, one of them made a costly mistake: Serrano failed to conceal his IP address when he created an account on a cryptocurrency exchange to hold nearly \$30 million in stolen crypto, according to prosecutors. Investigators linked the IP address to a home in Encino, California, that Serrano was renting for \$47,500 a month.



Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | avarren@messenger-inquirer.com

Bobby Patton of Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA Local 1392) grills up some hot dogs at the Owensboro Central Labor Council's 37th annual Labor Day Picnic on Monday at Ben Hawes Park.

PICNIC

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Labor Council.

The Battle of Blair Mountain is considered the largest labor uprising in the history of the United States. It was also the largest armed uprising in the country since the American Civil War.

The event happened in West Virginia's Logan County and was part of the early 20th-century labor disputes in the Appalachian region. For five days from late August to early September, 10,000 armed coal miners confronted 3,000 opponents as they attempted to unionize. The uprising ended after around 1 million rounds were fired and the National Guard was called to the area to intervene at the order of the president.

"At the end of the day, we want to remember workers that are building this country, coming off our 250th anniversary, and we want to honor what the labor movement has done to make society better and the economy better for all people," Rusher said.

The picnic consisted of lunch provided by Moonlite, and Specialty Food Group donated beef Polish sausages for the event, complete with drinks, cupcakes and banana pudding. There was also music, and election candidates were given the opportunity to speak to the crowd.

Rusher said it's because



Photo by Alan Warren, Messenger-Inquirer | avarren@messenger-inquirer.com

Chuck Morgan (left) and Paul Puckett attach an American flag to a banner for the Daviess County Democratic Party at the Owensboro Central Labor Council's 37th annual Labor Day Picnic on Monday at Ben Hawes Park.

"workers deserve to hear from who wants to represent them," followed by a keynote address from Liles Taylor, the director of mobilization for the Kentucky Public Pension Coalition.

"At the end of the day, we want to make sure whether you're in a union or you're not in a union, that you are getting taken care of. A lot of people are favorable to unions, but don't know how to join, and by all means, if they need help, reach out and we'll help them with that," said Rusher. "At the end of the day, people just deserve dignity on the job. They deserve retirement. They deserve healthcare."

He continued, "Our com-

munities are struggling, barely getting by, determining whether they can get by with their electric bills or having to get their medication. At the end of the day, we just want to lift everybody up and give everybody a fair shake."

Shena Link, director of Kentucky LECET, which helps connect union workers with contractors, added that, "Labor Day is a time to remember those who came before us. The rights and benefits that working people have today were not simply handed to us. They were fought for. They were earned by people who were willing to stay together and demand better wages, safer working conditions, reason-

able hours, dignity and respect."

"Every worker deserves a voice, and every family deserves a fair chance at a better future," Link said.

The picnic was open to the public and sponsored by Kentucky State AFL-CIO; International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmith, Forgers, and Helpers Local #40; United Food and Commercial Workers; Kentucky Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust; and contributions from Specialty Food Group.

Attendance at the picnic was free, but donations were accepted to help children in foster homes with Christmas gifts.



LEGAL NOTICE

Proposed Tax Notification

Daviess County Board of Education

The Daviess County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax levy of 70.4 cents on real and personal property.

The General Fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 69.8 cents on real property and 71.5 cents on personal property and produced revenue of \$53,950,517. The proposed General Fund tax rate of 70.4 cents on real property and personal property is expected to produce \$58,023,573. Of this amount, \$8,597,581 is from new and personal property. The compensating tax rate for 2027 is 67.7 cents on real and personal property and is expected to produce \$55,798,237.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of \$4,073,056 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated as follows: Cost of collections, \$82,683; building fund, \$907,913; instruction, \$2,311,845; transportation, \$462,369; and maintenance of plant, \$308,246.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017.

The General Assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.