

# **Pilot Incapacitation: Passenger Took Control of Small Plane, 2006 Piper Meridian, After Pilot Collapsed and Crash Landed Near Runway at Martha's Vineyard Airport on July 16, 2023. Both Survived!**

By [Dr. William Makis](#)

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[COVID Intel](#)

Region: [USA](#)

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*July 16, 2023 - A small plane, 2006 Piper Meridian enroute from Westchester, NY crashed near runway at Martha's Vineyard Airport around 3:15pm ([click here](#)).*

# Passenger takes control of plane, crashes in Massachusetts after pilot has medical problem



Francisco Guzman, USA TODAY

Sun, July 16, 2023 at 10:23 a.m. MDT · 1 min read



TRENDING



A passenger took control of a small [airplane and crash landed near a runway in Massachusetts](#) on Saturday after the pilot suffered a “medical emergency,” authorities said.

Preliminary investigation indicates that the **“79 year old male pilot suffered a medical emergency upon final approach”**.

**The passenger, a Connecticut woman, took control of the aircraft, a 2006 Piper Meridian, and attempted to land the plane but crashed outside the runway.**

**The aircraft’s left wing broke in half and the two people on board were taken to a local hospital.**

Police said the pilot was flown by helicopter to a Boston hospital. **He is in serious life-threatening condition. The passenger (a 68 year old woman) was not injured** and was evaluated at Martha’s Vineyard Hospital before being released.

## My Take...

**This is an incredible story that has not gotten any media attention. Even though the pilot is in advanced age, there are several lessons here:**

1. In the COVID-19 vaccine era, **no plane should fly with only 1 pilot, especially small planes.**
2. **Passengers must be aware that they may be called upon to land a plane**, given how frequent pilot incapacitations have become (due to COVID-19 vaccine injuries). Those who fly frequently may want to look into getting some flying lessons, just in case!
3. **The passenger managed to land the plane and saved both their lives. This miraculous story should be getting much more mainstream**

attention than it has.

## Recent Pilot Deaths

[Pilot death – May 2023](#) – 4 Singapore Airlines pilots died suddenly in May 2023

[Pilot death – May 9, 2023](#) – United Airlines and US Air Force Pilot Lt. Col. Michael Fugett, age 46, died unexpectedly at his home

[Pilot death – May 3, 2023](#) – Air Transat and Air Canada Pilot Eddy Vorperian, age 48, died suddenly during layover in Croatia

[Pilot death – April 13, 2023](#) – Phil Thomas, graduate of Flight Training Pilot academy in Cadiz, Spain (FTEJerez) died suddenly.

[Pilot death – March 17, 2023](#) – 39 year old Westjet Pilot Benjamin Paul Vige died suddenly in Calgary

[Pilot death – March 11, 2023](#) – British Airways pilot died of heart attack in crew hotel in Cairo before a Cairo to London flight (name & age not released)

## Other Recent Pilot Incapacitations In-flight

[Jun.7, 2023](#) – **Air Canada Flight ACA692 (YYZ-YYT) Toronto to St. John’s**, First Officer became incapacitated, deadheading Captain assumed duties

[Jun.4, 2023](#) – **Cessna Citation N611VG flying Tennessee to Long Island**, fighter jets spotted pilot slumped over in cockpit unconscious, plane crashed and all onboard died

[May 11, 2023](#) – **HiSKy Flight H4474 (DUB-KIV) Dublin to Chisinau (Moldova)**, 20 min after liftoff pilot became “unable to act”, plane diverted to Manchester

[May 4, 2023](#) – **British Charter TUI Airways Flight BY-1424 (NCL-LPA) Newcastle to Las Palmas Spain** pilot became ill, plane diverted back to NCL.

[April 4, 2023](#) – **United Airlines Flight 2102 (BOI-SFO)** – captain was incapacitated, first officer was only one in control of the aircraft.

[March 25, 2023](#) – **TAROM Flight RO-7673 TSR-HRG** diverted to Bucharest as 30 yo pilot had chest pain, then collapsed

[March 22, 2023](#) – **Southwest Flight WN6013 LAS-CMH** diverted as pilot collapsed shortly after take-off, replaced by non-Southwest pilot

[March 18, 2023](#) – **Air Transat Flight TS739 FDF-YUL** first officer was incapacitated about 200NM south of Montreal

[March 13, 2023](#) – **Emirates Flight EK205 MXP-JFK** diverted due to pilot illness hour and a half after take-off

[March 11, 2023](#) – **United Airlines Flight UA2007 GUA-ORD** diverted due to “incapacitated pilot” who had chest pains

**March 11, 2023? - British Airways (CAI-LHR) pilot collapsed in Cairo hotel **and died**, was scheduled to fly Airbus A321 from Cairo to London**

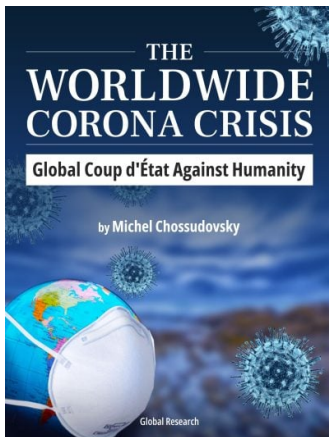
**March, 3, 2023 - Virgin Australia Flight VA-717 ADL-PER Adelaide to Perth flight was forced to make an emergency landing after **First Officer suffered heart attack** 30 min after departure.**

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*Featured image is from COVID Intel*



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