



Aviation Firefighters



by Nancy White

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Fire on Board!

Everything seemed fine on the evening of June 8, 1995, at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia. However, just as ValuJet Flight 597 was about to take off, the flight's **crew** and passengers heard a loud bang. Seconds later, flames and thick black smoke poured into the **cabin** where the passengers sat.



The pilot immediately stopped the plane on the **runway** and called the control tower. “We have a fire in the right engine!” he shouted into the radio. “Roll the equipment,” he continued, which meant, “Call out the **aviation** firefighters!” Within moments, they were speeding to the scene.



The Hartsfield-Jackson Airport aviation firefighters raced to the plane in a fire truck.



At major airports, air traffic controllers work in control towers. They help pilots move planes safely in the air and on the ground so that they do not crash with other aircraft. Air traffic controllers also direct aviation firefighters to fire emergencies.

One-Minute Reaction

The airport's aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) team got to the plane just one minute after the pilot's call for help. The firefighters sprayed the flames with white **foam** that shot out from a **turret** on their huge truck. Then they searched the smoky plane to see if anyone was trapped inside.



Aviation firefighters work with an airplane's crew to get passengers out of the plane safely during an emergency.



Aviation firefighters use a special truck, called an ARFF truck, to spray an airplane fire with foam.

In less than 15 minutes, the ARFF team had put out the fire and helped **evacuate** everyone. Five passengers, two crew members, and one firefighter were taken to a hospital for medical treatment. Luckily, because of the firefighters' quick action, nobody died in the fire.

The fire completely destroyed the ValuJet plane.



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About the Author

Nancy White has written many nonfiction books for children.
She lives just north of New York City, in the Hudson River Valley.

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Aviation Firefighters

On June 8, 1995, just before Flight 597 was about to take off from an airport in Georgia, the crew and passengers heard a loud bang. Within seconds, thick black smoke filled the cabin. One minute after the pilot called for help, a team of aviation firefighters arrived on the scene, ready to battle the deadly blaze and rescue the people trapped inside the plane.

Look inside to find out more about these courageous firefighters and how they use their quick thinking and expert skills to fight fires on airplanes. You'll also go behind the scenes to learn how aviation firefighters train for their jobs so that they are ready to spring into action at a moment's notice.

Aviation Firefighters ***City Firefighters*** ***Hotshots***
Marine Firefighters ***Smokejumpers***

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