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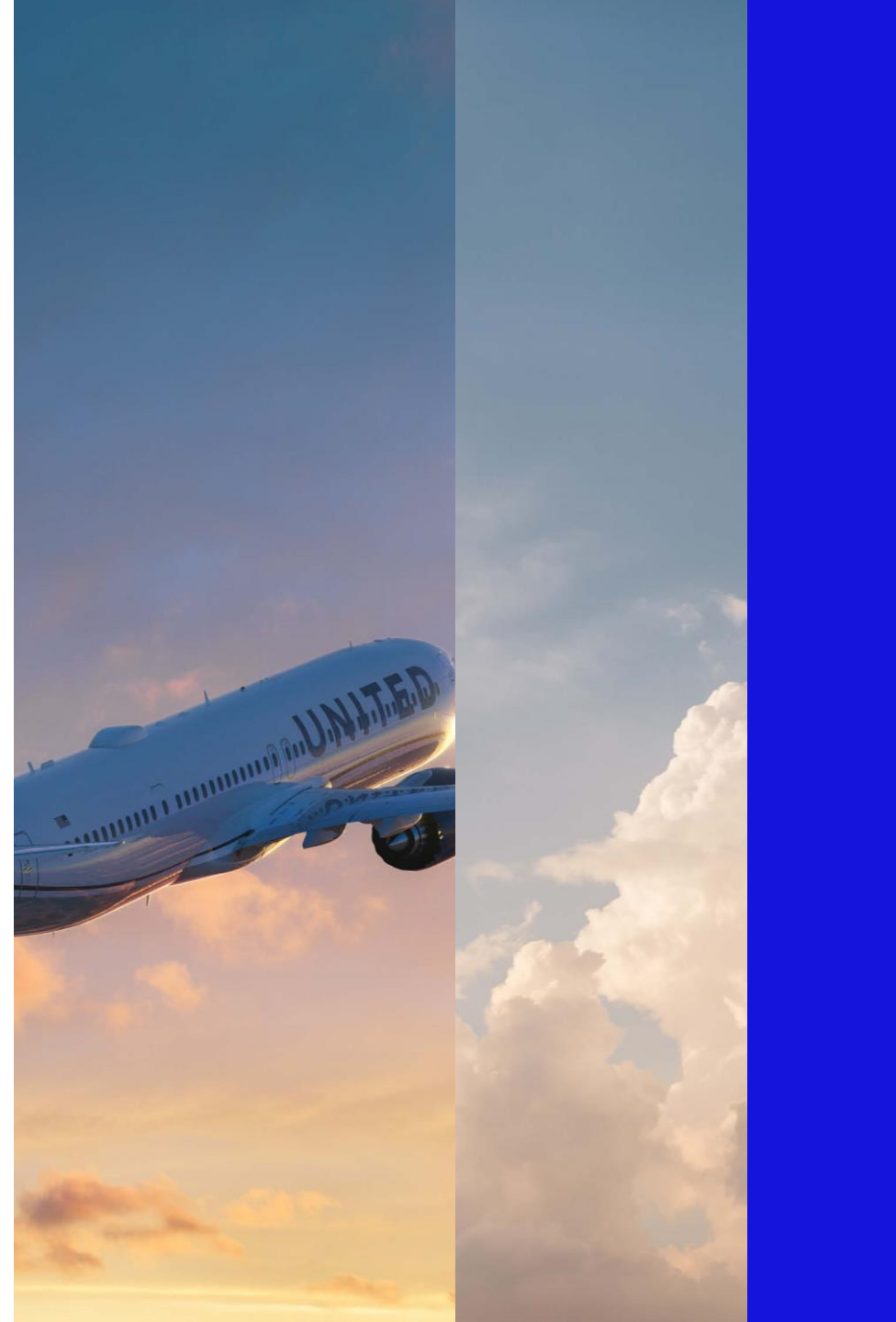
Auxiliary Battery Device Event

UA2664 | 07FEB2023 | SAN-EWR
N77259 | Boeing 737 MAX 8



Background

- Approximately 3-5 minutes after takeoff from SAN, a customer's **auxiliary battery device** caught fire in the first-class cabin
- Cabin crew immediately fell into their prescribed roles based on their **firefighting procedures**
- **Dense black smoke** filled the entire first-class cabin
- Device fire was contained utilizing a **water fire extinguisher**, followed by **halon**
- Two **thermal containment bags** were used (one from the flight deck and one from the cabin)
- All four cabin crew were **hospitalized** for smoke inhalation



Hazards / Root Cause

- Customer's auxiliary battery device was **unplugged** and had no devices connected
- Dense black smoke made firefighting by cabin crew **extremely difficult**
- Cabin crew had difficulty opening the **thermal containment bag** and breaking the seal holding the gloves
- **Bulky fire gloves** made picking up the device difficult
- Cabin crew did not feel they had enough time to don **protective breathing equipment** resulting in smoke inhalation





Lessons Learned

- Recommendation to the thermal containment bag manufacturer for **smaller seal** for easier separation of the gloves
- Review of thermal containment bag **gloves** for better dexterity
- Incorrect **thermal containment bag** was boarded in the cabin, resulting in a fleet campaign to check all aircraft
- Recommendation for photoluminescent **emergency equipment placards** as equipment was hard to locate in dense smoke



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