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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pilot procedures and aviation safety for airliners

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ (April 06, 2011) — Friday's April 1st, 2011, incident was no April Fool's joke for the passengers and crew aboard a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737-300 where a hole ripped open in the fuselage while it was en-route from Phoenix, AZ to Sacramento, CA causing it to divert to Yuma, AZ and make an emergency landing where all aboard landed safely. With the plane having just left Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport the many customers of Southwest Airlines and especially those traveling to or from the Valley were notably concerned.

“Once the loss in pressurization occurred, the pilots are trained to put on their oxygen masks immediately, bring the throttles to idle and initiate an emergency descent. The cabin oxygen masks would have deployed automatically allowing the passengers to put on their own mask. Per most jet aircraft's emergency procedures the crew would have descended to 10,000 feet where supplemental oxygen is not needed. This most likely happened in a matter of minutes as these aircraft are able to descend rapidly by the crew at rates 6,000-10,000 feet per minute.” Chad J. Verdaglio, President of Sawyer Aviation.

At 35,000 and going over 530MPH jet aircraft have a very broad area from which to choose a safe landing site or even be able to glide to in the event of a loss of engine power. With the aircraft otherwise operating normally, both engines running and all flight controls working, Yuma was an easy choice. Being that they landed at the Marine Base in Yuma, an airport used by large military and civilian aircraft, there was plenty of runway to land.

Verdaglio explains that pilots of jet aircraft of any size, airline or corporate, are trained to handle these types of situations. When things do go wrong the pilots follow their training. The quick-thinking pilots from Southwest Airline's Flight 812 showed their training and skill proving yet again that aviation is still the safest form of travel.

Founded in 1961 “Sawyer” has been synonymous with aviation in the Valley for half-a-century. Headquartered in Scottsdale, AZ Sawyer Aviation's flight-training department is one of the oldest flight-training academies in Arizona – no coincidence that Arizona is the #1 place in the world to learn to fly. With 6,000+ graduates, some of Sawyer's graduates have gone on to become Captains of Air Force One. Whether someone is looking to purchase a business aircraft for coast-to-coast travel, live a lifelong dream of becoming a pilot, or arrange a jet for a meeting or a special occasion – Sawyer's team of dedicated professionals are ready to serve their clients today, tomorrow and for the next 50 years. Sawyer Aviation – We take you above it all.
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