

PICTORIAL:
SPANAIR MD- 82 JET CRASH KILLS 153 ON TAKE-OFF
AT MADRID'S BARAJAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



AUGUST 20, 2008 (*Madrid, Spain*) - A SPANAIR jet crashed during take-off at Madrid's Barajas International Airport. Of the 166 passengers and six crew onboard, 153 persons were killed on impact and the ensuing fire. 19 survived. Only one crewmember -a 27 year old stewardess -survived. The aircraft, an MD-82, was en route from Madrid to Las Palmas when the accident occurred, at 14:23 hours. The aircraft had prepared for take-off but returned to the gate after a technical problem was discovered. After the problem was corrected, the aircraft again taxied to runway 36L and proceeded with take-off. Initially it was reported that a fire in the number one engine occurred, however an airport video disproved that theory. The pilot used almost all of the 4.5 km long runway before attempting his take-off. There was no evidence of a fire or explosion in the engine of the plane as had been reported. Instead the craft failed to gain height, veered first to the left and then to the right, and bounced against the ground several times before bursting into flames. The video belongs to the Spanish Airport Authority AENA. Airport firefighters responded quickly, but were hampered due to the location of the crash site located in a heavily wooded depressed area, and a post-crash brush fire that covered nearly one square kilometer.

(More photos on next page)

TOP LEFT: Path of doomed jet is shown .

TOP: Plume of black smoke rises from crash site moments after jet crashed.

MIDDLE: Helicopter drops water on rapidly spreading brush fire that ensued in crash site area.

BOTTOM: Fire and rescue personnel work at scene of aircraft impact amongst heavy debris field.