

Panic on Delta Flight 2353

In September 2019, passengers on board a Delta Air Lines flight were left fearing for their lives after their plane plunged almost 30,000 feet in just eight minutes.

Delta Flight 2353, a Boeing 763, took off from Atlanta and headed to Fort Lauderdale, before it was forced to land in Tampa. The plane descended from 39,000 feet to 10,000 feet in about eight minutes. No injuries were reported, but oxygen masks dropped due to the plane's rapid descent.

"Out of nowhere, I had four oxygen masks drop down into my lap," Harris DeWoskin, 21, told NBC News. "Of course, it was sort of an instant panic."



Flight attendants were focused on calming people down. The incident prompted passengers to text loved ones in preparation. One passenger tweeted: "I texted my wife and dad that I loved them. I told my mom I love her and hugged my son."

The plane landed safely without further incident and passengers deplaned normally. Then buses transported customers from Tampa to Fort Lauderdale.

This incident brings to mind what happened on 9/11. When passengers aboard the hijacked jets and also the people in the Twin Towers realized they wouldn't survive the ordeal, many reached for their cell phones and quietly dialed their loved ones. If no one answered, they left recorded messages with their final words, "I love you."

They could have said any number of other things, but they were focused on their personal relationships. They desperately wanted to say, "I love you."

Let's not wait until we are dying – or think we are going to die – to give someone a hug and tell that person we love him or her.

And for those of us in Life Care and Century Park, we serve a population of residents who are hungry to be loved; to know someone cares in these challenging days in their lives.

Jesus said it:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another (John 13:34-35 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter