

# MID-FLIGHT SIESTA CUT SHORT BY A FIESTA OF EXPLODING EARPHONES

Early morning on the 19th of February, an anonymous woman was travelling on a flight from Beijing to Melbourne when she was awoken to the sound of exploding earphones. Once she started to smell the fumes, she woke up and pulled the earphones away from her ear to find them catching fire, sparking and even melting. Authorities explained that “passengers endured the smell of melted plastic, burnt electronics and burnt hair” for the rest of the journey.

The Australian woman suffered from harsh burns, a sooty blackened face, burnt hair and an exploded phone as a result to her battery-operated earphones blowing up in her face on the flight. “They were sparking and had small amounts of fire,” the woman said in an Australian Transport Safety Bureau statement, released on Wednesday. The woman who wishes to remain anonymous says “As I went to stamp my foot on them the flight attendants were already there with a bucket of water to pour on them.” Also, passengers describe the smoke and the smell of melted plastic, burnt hair and electronics filling the cabin for the rest of the journey to Melbourne.

Many passengers suffered from side effects as “People were coughing and choking the entire way home,” as one passenger recounts in the ATSB statement. After upcoming reports, the ATSB said that the batteries likely caught fire and reminded people to carry batteries with them and not in their stowed luggage. The woman who previously owned the popular Galaxy Note 7, which was originally well-reviewed but there have been many subsequent incidents where dozens of the phones were overheating, which in this case led her earphones to overheat too, eventually leading to the fire.



The woman’s burnt, overheated Samsung Galaxy Note 7

**“People were coughing and choking the entire way home.”**

One passenger said in the ATSB (Australian Transport Safety Bureau) statement

**“I continued to feel burning, so I grabbed them off and threw them on the floor. They were sparking and had small amounts of fire. As I went to stamp my foot on them the flight attendants were already there with a bucket of water to pour on them. They put them into the bucket at the rear of the plane.”**

Said the anonymous woman as she recounts her horrific event

Along with the horror of this unfortunate event, the woman threw both of her earphones and burnt phone to the floor where they had melted into the carpet because of the extensive amounts of heat. However, this incident was to do with the battery of the phone itself and not to do with the earphones she was using.

A spokesperson for the ATSB explained that it was the first heard report of headphones catching fire in Australia, but there have been quite a few reported problems of other phone and device battery incidents.

Last year, a flight to Sydney had to be evacuated when smoke was seen coming from a passenger's hand luggage. After searches, it was then later found that the lithium batteries conceived in the bag had caught fire. Last month in the UK, a train was also evacuated when a workman's drill overheated and sparked a fire which left seven. With increasing reports on electrical devices or electrical accessories, this raises the rate of blowing up devices.

~ By Sonia