

# iPhone survives 16,000-foot fall from Alaska Airlines flight

January 8 2024

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A man inspects a hole in the cabin of a Boeing airplane, the result of a fuselage panel blowing off mid-flight.

Now that's what you call airplane mode—an iPhone that plummeted 16,000 feet (5,000 meters) from an Alaska Airlines flight landed without

a single crack in the screen and even a battery still half-charged.

The phone was sucked out of Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 on Friday when a fuselage panel blew off, leaving a gaping hole. The [passenger plane](#) made an [emergency landing](#) shortly after, with all aboard safe.

A few items, reportedly including AirPods and a boy's shirt, made more dramatic landings after shooting out of the suddenly depressurized cabin.

Amid a search for debris, a man named Sean Bates in the northwestern state of Washington found an iPhone on the side of the road, appearing to belong to one of the passengers.

A photo of the device posted on X, formerly Twitter, on Sunday showed the intact screen and an emailed \$70 baggage receipt. The battery is shown charged to 44 percent and the smartphone remains on flight mode.

Aside from the [port](#), where the terminal of the charger protrudes after being ripped from the rest of the cord, the phone appears untouched.

In a follow up TikTok post, Bates said he'd found the phone "pretty clean, no scratches on it, sitting under a bush."

Bates said he contacted the National Transportation Safety Board, which told him it was the second [phone](#) from the flight to have been found.

NTSB Chair Jennifer Homendy replied to his post on X thanking him and offering to meet.

In a briefing on Sunday, Homendy told reporters that "We'll look through [the phones] and then return them," adding that it was "very, very fortunate" that the incident had not ended in tragedy.

In response to the incident, [regulatory bodies](#) swiftly grounded some versions of Boeing's 737 MAX 9 jet, pending inspections. Boeing shares plunged in trading on Monday.

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Citation: iPhone survives 16,000-foot fall from Alaska Airlines flight (2024, January 8) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2024-01-iphone-survives-foot-fall-alaska.html>

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