

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2009** Last modified:  
Friday, November 20, 2009 12:41 AM CST

## Plane sustains engine failure en route to BHC

Passenger injured during evacuation

Daily News staff

**BULLHEAD CITY** - A charter flight from Pennsylvania carrying 125 passengers bound for Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport was diverted late Wednesday night after one of its engines apparently failed.

The Allegiant Air MD-80 from Pittsburgh made a scheduled refueling stop in Wichita, Kan., according to Allegiant Air spokeswoman Sabrina LoPiccolo.

"They had a scheduled stop," she said. "On takeoff, as they approached 1,500 feet, passengers reported hearing a loud boom and the pilot safely returned the plane to Wichita."

Emergency crews met the plane as it returned to Mid-Continent Airport and passengers were evacuated in two methods, by the emergency slides deployed and by the airplane steps.

"About 15 passengers used the slides," LoPiccolo said. "The rest used the stairs."

One person suffered a minor injury while using the emergency slide, LoPiccolo said. She said the exact cause of the left engine failure wasn't known. She said there were no indications of a fire.

Another Allegiant plane was sent from Las Vegas to Wichita.

"The recovery flight from Las Vegas arrived in Wichita around midnight, local time, and the flight continued to Laughlin (Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport), arriving around 2:05 (Thursday morning)," LoPiccolo said.

LoPiccolo said airline policy prevented her from disclosing any information about who organized the charter.

Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport referred callers about the incident to Allegiant Air.

Allegiant provides regular passenger service to a number of locations and is a frequent charter visitor to Laughlin/Bullhead. LoPiccolo said she didn't know how many flights the airline made annually to the Tri-state. Allegiant is the air carrier used by Harrah's Laughlin for some of its travel packages.