

Brazil crash – possible causes

Investigators in Sao Paulo are attempting to discover why the Airbus A320 which crashed Tuesday, killing 186 people, failed to slow down on landing.

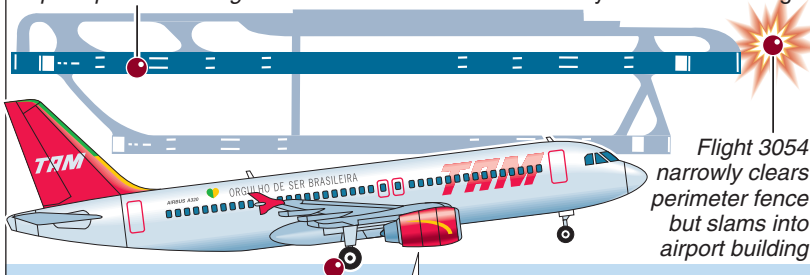
The airport was already under fire for its short runway and officials have revealed that one of the plane's reverse thrusters was turned off

CONGONHAS AIRPORT

Runway length: 1,940m (compared to 2,135m for New York's *La Guardia*)

Planes must land within first 300m or pull up and circle again

Speed: Landing speed may have been too high

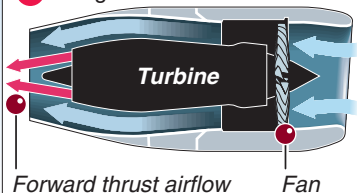


Brakes: Wheel brakes alone should be sufficient to stop aircraft within runway. Brakes only operate if wheels are at correct rotational speed

Aquaplaning: Grooves to carry rainwater away had not yet been applied to new runway surface. Layer of water several millimetres deep may have settled

Reverse thrusters aid braking, particularly on short runways

1 In flight



2 Landing

