# Former Boeing Manager Calls for Criminal Investigation Amid Safety Concerns



### Boeing Faces Call for Criminal Investigation Over Aircraft Safety Concerns

A former senior manager at Boeing, Ed Pierson, has urged the initiation of a criminal investigation into Boeing's safety practices. Pierson, who is now the executive director of the Foundation for Aviation Safety, contends that the company's aircraft are still not safe. This follows a series of safety issues, including a recent incident where an Alaska Airlines jet experienced a door blowout mid-flight.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has given Boeing a deadline to present a plan to address these safety problems. This comes after a door-plug panel detached from a Boeing 737 Max jetliner during an Alaska Airlines flight in January, leading to an emergency landing. No passengers were harmed in the incident.

FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker has mandated Boeing to devise a plan to improve quality and address safety concerns, insisting that this is the beginning of a lengthy process. Multiple investigations, both civil and criminal, are ongoing, with some focusing on whether Boeing employees may have falsified records.

Additionally, whistleblower Sam Salehpour testified about safety issues related to Boeing 787 Dreamliner models, alleging severe manufacturing lapses. Boeing CEO David Calhoun, who is set to step down at the end of the year, claims the company is taking steps to improve manufacturing quality and safety culture.

The Justice Department is also considering criminal prosecution over the two fatal 737 Max crashes in 2018 and 2019, which resulted in 346 fatalities. Boeing reached a $2.5 billion settlement with the Justice Department in 2021 to resolve some of these issues, but scrutiny remains high.

Meanwhile, a Boston startup called Merlin is working on developing self-flying technology, aiming to reduce operating costs for large cargo aircraft by minimizing the need for human pilots. Collaborating with MIT’s Lincoln Lab, the FAA, and the US Air Force, Merlin plans to deploy its technology in the near future, though human oversight will still be required for now.