

Laser Pointer Incidents on the Rise

Reading

Laser pointer attacks against aircraft pilots are becoming a growing threat to passenger planes, especially during take-offs and landings. In the United States alone over 3000 laser pointer incidents are reported every year.

More and more commercial airline pilots have reported laser pointer attacks in which flashes of light temporarily blind their vision. In February, a Virgin Atlantic flight to New York JFK had to return to London Heathrow because a laser light had been shone into the cockpit. In the same month, Pope Francis' flight from Cuba to Mexico was targeted by a laser beamer during landing. In New Zealand, there have been reports of rescue helicopters being targeted by laser pointers.

While in the past laser pointers only had about 1 milliwatt of energy, they have become much more powerful today. Laser pointers with a thousand milliwatts of energy can be purchased on the internet for \$30 or less.

Most attacks are carried out by young men or boys, who are often not aware of the dangers of laser instruments. According to psychologists, playing around with guns and other weapons is something that typically attracts males.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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