

Testimonial from Captain Joseph G. DePete
Former President, Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA)
Former FedEx Captain and Line Check Airman

Throughout my career, I have believed that aviation safety is built on preparation, sound procedures, and continuously improving the tools available to the professionals responsible for protecting the traveling public. During my years representing professional pilots, lithium battery thermal runaway events evolved from an emerging concern into a significant operational safety challenge as passengers increasingly carried more lithium-powered devices aboard aircraft.

As a professional pilot, I have spent my career evaluating risk and understanding that, when an emergency occurs, flight crews often have only seconds to respond. Any equipment intended to address a lithium battery fire must not only help contain the event but also protect the crew member responding to it in the confined environment of an aircraft cabin or cockpit.

Among the lithium battery containment solutions I have reviewed, the Lithium Fireguard PG-100 stands out because it was engineered specifically for the operational realities of commercial aviation. Its integrated protective shield reinforced structural frame, toxic gas filtration, and controlled water-delivery system reflect thoughtful engineering focused on protecting both the crew member and the aircraft during a thermal runaway event.

Throughout my career, I heard numerous accounts of flight crews improvising with gloves, water bottles, and other available equipment because purpose-built containment systems simply were not available. That operational experience reinforces my belief that crews deserve equipment specifically designed for the hazards they may encounter—not equipment adapted after the fact.

One of the factors that particularly caught my attention was that the PG-100 has achieved UL 5800 Certification. Independent evaluation against a recognized industry standard is important because it provides operators and flight crews greater confidence that a product has been assessed for the specific hazards associated with lithium-ion battery thermal runaway events. In aviation, objective standards and independent validation matter.

The best outcome is always preventing an emergency from occurring. But when prevention fails, flight crews deserve equipment that has been purpose-built and independently evaluated for the emergency they may be called upon to manage.

No single product can eliminate risk entirely, nor does any piece of equipment replace sound training, established procedures, or a strong safety culture. Aviation's exceptional safety record has always depended on multiple, complementary layers of defense working together. The Lithium Fireguard PG-100 represents a meaningful advancement in helping protect flight crews against an evolving operational hazard,

combining purpose-built engineering with independent certification to the UL 5800 standard.

The continued growth in lithium-powered devices makes this an issue every operator should take seriously. Our industry has successfully managed these events through outstanding professionalism, effective procedures, and a relentless commitment to safety. But history has repeatedly shown that the strongest safety improvements are those made before tragedy forces our hand. We can see the risk. We understand the trend. We have the opportunity—and I would argue the responsibility—to strengthen our defenses before a catastrophic event compels us to do so. The hallmark of aviation safety has never been waiting for the next accident—it has been recognizing emerging risks and acting before they become tragedies.

Based on my review, I believe the Lithium Fireguard PG-100 represents a thoughtful, effective, and practical advancement in helping flight crews respond to one of aviation's evolving safety challenges. Innovation has always played a critical role in advancing aviation safety, and technologies that are purpose-built, independently validated, and operationally practical deserve serious consideration as our industry continues its commitment to reducing risk and protecting the traveling public.

About Lithium Fire Guard

Lithium Fire Guard develops certified containment systems for lithium battery thermal runaway events in occupied aircraft cabins, supporting airline safety, compliance, and operational resilience. [LithiumfireGuard.com](https://lithiumfireguard.com)