

## Boeing to offer safety feature as standard in 737 MAX software upgrade -sources

WASHINGTON/JAKARTA (Reuters) - Boeing Co plans to offer as standard a safety feature that might have warned earlier of problems that possibly played a role in the crashes of Ethiopian and Indonesian planes that killed almost 350 people, two officials briefed on the matter said on Thursday.

Boeing will mandate a previously optional cockpit warning light as part of a software update to the 737 MAX fleet that was grounded in the wake of the fatal crashes, said the officials, who asked not to be identified.

The March 10 Ethiopian Airlines crash that killed all 157 on board has set off one of the widest inquiries in aviation history and cast a shadow over the Boeing MAX model intended to be a standard for decades.

Initial investigations show similarities between the Ethiopian crash and the Indonesian accident in October that killed all 189 crew and passengers. A direct link between the crashes has not been proven, but attention has focused on an automated flight-control system, MCAS (Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System), that came into service two years ago with the MAX.

Chicago-based Boeing, which the officials said also will retrofit older planes with the cockpit warning light, previously offered the alert, but it was not required by aviation regulators.

It is unclear how long it will take Boeing to retrofit existing MAX planes with new software or hardware. Experts said it could take weeks or months to be done, and for regulators to review and approve the changes. Regulators in Europe and Canada have said they will conduct their own reviews of any new systems.

The software is designed to prevent a loss of lift which can cause an aerodynamic stall, sending the plane downwards in an uncontrolled way. In the Lion Air crash, it may have been erroneously

activated by a faulty sensor, investigators believe. The FAA has said installation of the new software and related training was a priority.

### STEPS TO IMPROVE SAFETY

Boeing did not immediately comment on the plan to make the safety feature standard. However, in London Thursday, Randy Tinseth, Boeing's vice president of commercial marketing, said the manufacturer is moving quickly to make software changes and expects the upgrade will be approved by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the coming weeks.

"That includes changes in the control laws of the airplane, an update of the displays, the flight manual, as well as the training," he said at a conference, adding Boeing has tested the improvements in a simulator and in the air.

The product and training updates were being made "to further improve the safety that ensures that this will not happen again," Tinseth said.



FILE PHOTO: Lion Air's Boeing 737 Max 8 airplane is parked on the tarmac of Soekarno Hatta International airport near Jakarta



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# Editor's Choice



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro arrives at Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport in Santiago



U.S. President Trump displays executive order linking "free speech" efforts at public universities to federal grants at the White House in Washington



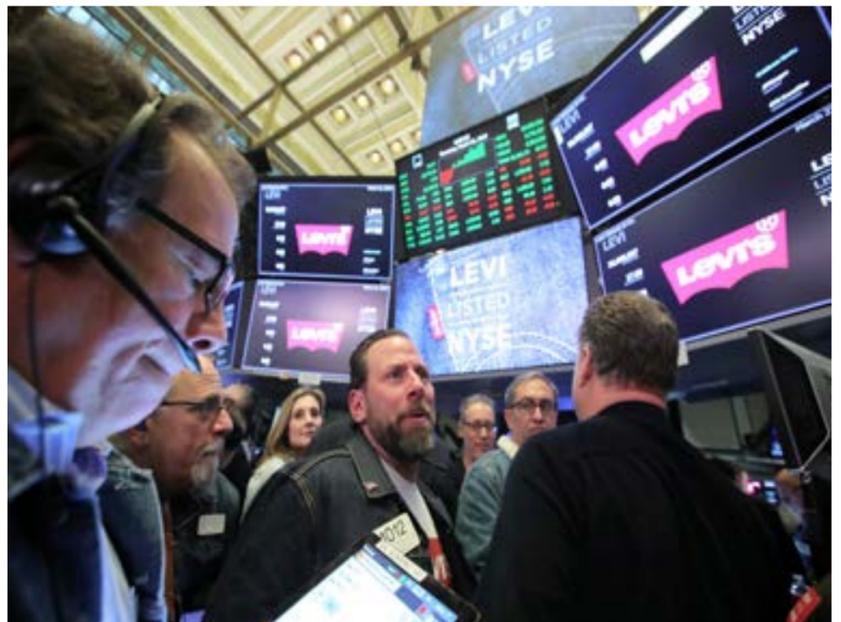
FILE PHOTO: A screen displays the trading information for chemical producer DowDuPont Inc. on the floor at the NYSE in New York



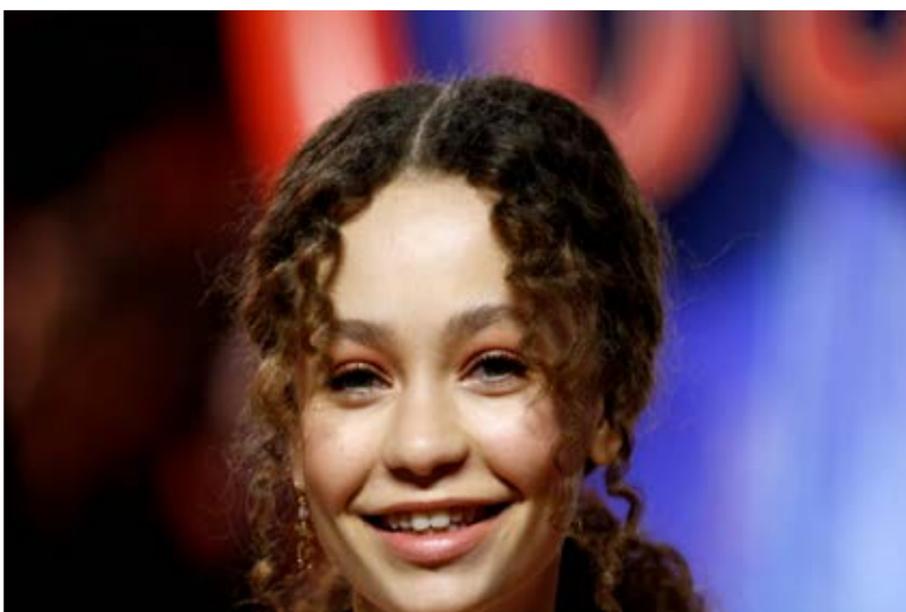
Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall attend a reception at Government House in Nevis



Cans of Coca-Cola are pictured in the refrigerator during an event in Paris



Traders wear Levi's clothing during the Levi Strauss & Co. IPO at the New York Stock Exchange in New York



Actor Nico Parker attends the European premiere of "Dumbo" movie in London, Britain March 21, 2019. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Britain's Prince Charles arrives at St Kitts before visiting Brimstone Hill Fort, during a visit to St Kitts and Nevis, March 21, 2019. REUTERS/Phil Noble/Pool

Looking for a pet? Dozens of neglected and abandoned animals being cared for at the Houston Humane Society need a home.

About 6.5 million animals end up in shelters across the U.S. each year, including 3.3 million dogs and 3.2 million cats, according to the ASPCA.

The Houston Humane Society offers adoption tips and its one-page application on its website. Fees are \$125 for dogs 25 pounds and less, \$125 for dogs six months and younger, \$95 for dogs seven months or 26 pounds or more and \$50 for cats.



The shelter is located at 14700 Alameda Road in Houston. Adoption hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The spay and neuter clinic is open Monday through Saturday by appointment only.

**Related**

**Help Us Clear the Shelters 2018**



KPRC TV2 once again joined NBC Universal's Clear the Shelters initiative and teamed up with Telemundo Hous-

**Looking For A Pet?**  
**Here Are The Houston Humane Society Animals That Need Homes Now**

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

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ton and animal shelters in the Houston area to host the third annual Clear the Shelters nationwide pet adoption drive on Saturday, Aug. 18.

that local animal shelters typically experience in the summer months because of spring litters.

Last year, more than 80,000 pets were adopted as a result of the Clear the Shelters nationwide campaign. Nearly 3,000 of those pet adoptions took place in the Houston area. Since 2015, Clear the Shelters has resulted in more than 150,000 pet adoptions nationwide.

Participating animal shelters in the Houston area offer no-cost or reduced fee adoptions or waived pet spaying and neutering fees.

Rescue groups will host adoptions at the Children's Museum of Houston as indicated in the listings below. Crime Stoppers of Houston, SNAP and Houston PetSet will be sharing information about animal care and animal cruelty prevention at the Children's Museum of

Houston event as well. Event hours at the Children's Museum of Houston on August 18 are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participating shelters include (shelter hours may vary, please contact shelter for hours of operation):

**HOUSTON:**

\*\*\*A Chance to Bloom | Event at Chil-

dren's Museum of Houston

**BARC Animal Shelter** | 3300 Carr St. Houston, TX 77026 | (832) 395-9009

**Citizens for Animal Protection (CAP)** | 17555 Katy Fwy Houston, TX 77094 | (281) 497-0053

\*\*\***Diamond in the Fluff Rescue** | Event at Children's Museum of Houston  
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(Courtesy Click2Houston)



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**SPECIAL REPORT**

**Cellphone Use With Internet Access Bringing Rapid Changes To Cuba**

HAVANA (AP) — After a tornado slammed Havana in late January, Mijail Ramirez complained on Twitter that authorities were threatening to evict him from his damaged home. A week later he said the government had changed its mind and would help him rebuild the house.

Jorge Luis Leon used the official Twitter account of a Cuban vice president to request that hospital waiting rooms have seating for family members, while a group of young people launched "Sube," a ride-hailing app for the aging American sedans that ply the streets of Havana.

In the 2 1/2 months since Cuba allowed its citizens internet access via cellphones, fast-moving changes are subtle but palpable as Cubans challenge government officials online, post photos of filthy school bathrooms and drag what was one of the world's least-connected countries into the digital age. Communist authorities, in turn, are having to learn how to deal with more visible pressure coming from outside of party-controlled popular and neighborhood committees.

"Life has changed," said Alberto Cabrera, 25, who is part of the team that developed the Sube app. "You see it when you walk down the street. The other day, looking from the roof of my house I could see that a neighbor had mobile internet service, as did the person in front and the person beyond him. You never saw that before."



A man holds his phone showing the app "Sube," a ride-hailing app for the aging American sedans on the streets of Havana, in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2019.



In the 2 1/2 months since Cuba allowed its citizens internet access via cellphones, fast-moving changes are subtle but growing as Cubans challenge government officials online, post photos of filthy school bathrooms and drag what was once of the world's least-connected countries into the digital age. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In the first 40 days after Dec. 6, when people could start buying internet access packages for 3G service, 1.8 million Cubans on this island of 11 million purchased the services. A government report last week said about 6.4 million residents use the internet and social networks.

Previously, nearly all Cubans could use mobile phones to link only to their state-run email accounts unless they connected to the internet at a limited number of government-sponsored Wi-Fi spots.

"We are in a process of learning about how to use the data" packages, said Claudia Cuevas, 26, a university professor and member of the Sube team. "Before you went to the park (with Wi-Fi zones) once a week to communicate with your family."

The history of the internet in Cuba has been rife with tensions and suspicions since it began in the 1990s. Cuba's government accused Washington of blocking its access to the fiber optical cables near the island, forcing it to use an expensive and slow satellite service. It was only in 2011 that Cuba got access to a submarine cable with the help of Venezuela. And it wasn't until 2015 that the general population gained access through the opening of Wi-Fi points in hundreds of parks.

Critics of the communist government said it resisted giving Cubans free access to the internet because it feared a free inflow of information. Government supporters said it was fighting efforts by Washington to undermine Cuba's communist system and revolution.



Cellphones are becoming a way of life in Cuba, as the country struggles to catch up with the rest of the digital world.

"For a while, the internet generated fear among Cuba's leaders and there was a long wait," said Harold Cardenas, a pro-revolutionary blogger and Cuba specialist who now resides in the United States. "It was collateral damage from the dynamics of the Cold War prolonged in Cuba for decades."

Cardenas said that what Cuba can expect is "more citizen participation, incorporation into global digital trends and challenges for the new president."

People questioned by The Associated Press agreed that using the internet has become more practical since the recent arrival of cellphone access. Cubans are moving from state telephone company ETECSA to WhatsApp, searching for information on the internet and reaching out to government officials through Facebook and Twitter.

Julio Aguirre Luson, 25, a DJ who has had a YouTube channel called Tecno-LikeCuba for a year, says he has noticed the impact.

"Previously, the country with the most subscribers to my channel ... was Spain, followed by the United States, and Cuba third. Now the highest number are Cubans," he said.

Aguirre said, however, that there are still many limitations from both outside and inside Cuba. For example, there are obstacles facing local developers who want to enter their products in places like Google Play store. And in Cuba, developers face a paralysis in the delivery

of operating licenses so they can work within a legal framework.



Cellphone user proudly displays the flag of Cuba on his cellphone.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel opened a Twitter account prior to December and recently ordered all his ministers and senior leaders to do the same. But many of them only retweet official messages or propaganda slogans without providing their own content or answering citizens' questions.

Diaz-Canel has repeated the importance of the internet and says Cuban authorities are working on websites and platforms to provide government services, such as requesting a birth certificate or being able to fill in government forms that now must be done out by hand.

An example of the growing use of the internet and social media was the reaction via Facebook and Twitter to the tornado that devastated half of Havana in late January. Residents used the platforms to assess the damage and organize solidarity.

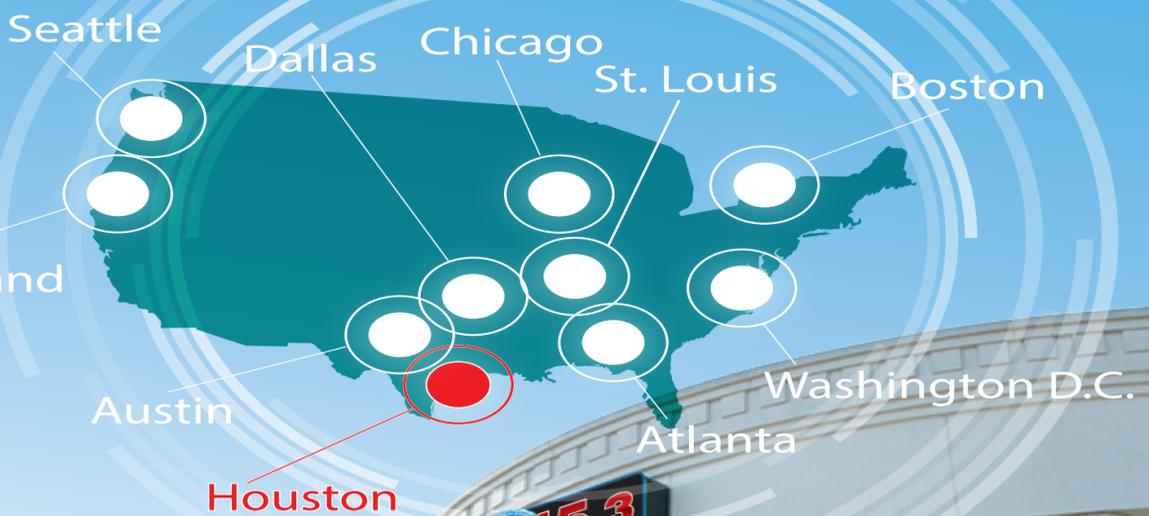
The combination of internet access and social networks "is a channel that people can use to say things as they are directly: 'We need this or this is happening.' It cannot be blocked and people must see it as a way to express themselves and say what they think," said Cuevas. (Courtesy <https://www.apnews.com>)



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