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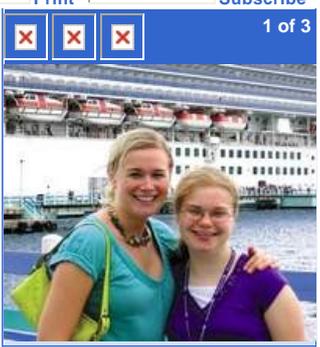
Local family experienced cruise-ship mishap

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July 23, 2006

PLATTSBURGH — A local dentist and his two daughters were onboard the Crown Princess cruise that tipped near the Florida coast earlier this week.

Donald Davison, and his two daughters, Lindsay, 20, and Katie, 15, were about a week into the nine-day cruise when it suddenly began to tilt in the ocean Tuesday afternoon.



Lindsay (left) and Katie Davison pose for a picture near the Crown Princess ship. The sisters were on the lowest deck (visible in the background) when the ship began to suddenly shift to one side
Photo Provided

"It was briefly frightening because I didn't know why the boat was turning that hard," Davison said. "I was only worried until I found my daughters on the lower deck."

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The Crown Princess was about 11 1/2 miles southeast of the Port Canaveral coast, when it suddenly began to list to one side after a crew member reportedly disengaged the autopilot and over-corrected the ship as it began to turn.

Davison had just left his two daughters on the lowest deck while he went to take photos from the upper levels of the ship. Davison was on the top deck of the ship when it began to shift to one side.

"I was worried about my girls, but there were exactly where I had left them," said Davison. "They were fine and my youngest did exactly what she was supposed to do. She grabbed a life-jacket from our room and was waiting for us near the lifeboats."

All 3,100 passengers and 1,200 crew members were accounted for after the sudden tilt.

According to recent Coast Guard reports, about 70 people suffered minor cuts and bruises, while another 20 passengers sustained more serious injuries.

"There was a lot of commotion from the passengers after it happened," Davison said. "It had tipped enough to cause some problems, but nothing really major."

According to Davison, there was some minor damage onboard after the quick turn. In some areas, chairs and broken glass littered the decks. Some areas of the upper decks and stairwells had filled with water after about two feet of water was spilled from the pool.

"It threw some of our stuff on the floor, but nothing was broken or damaged," Davison said. "The biggest thing I saw, were chairs and people pushed to the side."

According to newly-released inspection reports, the ship is believed to have shifted about 15 degrees during the unexpected tilt.

The ship was docked in Florida shortly after the incident. About 1,600 passengers left from Port Canaveral that night, while others remained there through Wednesday afternoon.

According to Davison, crew members were extremely accommodating to the passengers after the incident. Crew members were available to assist with questions and busses were waiting at the port to provide transportation to the stranded passengers.

"The crew was really calm and helpful after it happened," said Davison. "It was actually the most stable boat I've been on. We were ready to keep going and ride it back to New York."

The 113,000-ton Crown Princess was making its fourth voyage to the Western Caribbean. The vessel had been christened last month by Martha Stewart before it made its first voyage from the Brooklyn terminal.

The cruise had been scheduled to return to New York ports on Thursday.

The Miami-based Carnival Corp. provided refunds and compensation to cruise passengers.

"I'm going to use the refund towards my next cruise," Davison said. "The most dangerous part of the cruise for me was driving there and back."

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