

24 years ago Friday at Sioux Gateway Airport.

"It doesn't matter if it's a crash that is big or small, my thoughts always go back to 232," said Kiple, who runs a public relations business in Sergeant Bluff.

On July 19, 1989, Kiple was a 19-year-old intern for the Sioux City Journal who was shadowing two Sioux City firefighters for a feature story. When they responded to a report of a jumbo jet making an emergency landing at Sioux Gateway Airport, Kiple was in the backseat of the fire vehicle at the airport.

When she closes her eyes, she still can see the plane cartwheeling down the runway, the smoldering wreckage and the amazing scene of survivors walking through the cornfields toward her. She sees the bodies.

"I felt so helpless," Kiple said.

A total of 112 people were killed of the 296 on board the DC-10 on its way from Denver to Chicago.

The July 6 crash of the Asiana Airlines jumbo jet at San Francisco International Airport brought back vivid memories for others who responded to the Flight 232 crash. Three passengers died in the San Francisco crash.

"George and I both commented that the San Francisco airport had bought multiple copies of our training video, 'Alert 3' over the years," said Lou Ann Lindblade of G.R. Lindblade & Co., a Sioux City documentary film and photography business.

The video examined how the Siouland community created a system of disaster preparedness that saved many of Flight 232's passengers. A second film, "Lessons Learned," updated what emergency responders have put in place since the crash. Thousands of those videos have been used by emergency responders across the country.

"My heart went out to all of the emergency responders there in San Francisco," said Gary Brown, Woodbury County's emergency and disaster services director. "It's very sad."

"We had 40 communities send more than 80 pieces of emergency equipment to the airport that day, and we had an estimated 300 emergency responders," Brown recalled of the Flight 232 crash.

Another 80 businesses, colleges and organizations helped in some way, including members of the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Tactical Fighter Group at the Sioux City air base.

Flying at 33,000 feet over Alta, Iowa, a fan disc failed on Flight 232. Pieces of shrapnel severed all three of the jumbo jet's hydraulic lines, the likes of which had never been seen, let alone tested in simulation drills. Capt. Al Haynes and his crew made wobbly right hand turns as they circled to Sioux Gateway, and then crashed as they attempted to land.

Marliss DeJong, district representative for U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley in Sioux City, volunteered in the make-shift morgue in an airport hangar. She administered the paperwork to ensure proper identification of each body. Now Assistant Sioux City Fire Chief Jim Clark helped develop dental X-rays. Since then, DeJong has responded to other disasters as part of a Red Cross team, she said from her home in Pittsburg, Mo.

The 232 stories will be told in best-selling author Laurence Gonzales' book, "The Crash of Flight 232: Stories of Survival." Gonzales, who holds a commercial pilot's license, has written a number of books about aviation. He said a couple of survivors declined to be interviewed, the memories



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too painful.

"There were a lot of children on that flight -- 52 -- and a lot were traveling alone," he said.

His book also is a detective story involving the search for the missing engine pieces, ultimately found by farmers. His book is expected to be published next spring.

Larry Finley said he is forming a committee to plan a 25th commemoration next year. Finley, executive director of the Mid America Museum of Aviation & Transportation near the airport, said people stop every week to look at the Flight 232 exhibit.

The plane crash, Gonzales said, still holds interest all these years later.

"These are the most amazing stories I have ever heard in my life," he said.

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