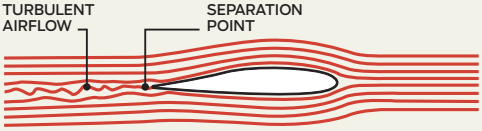
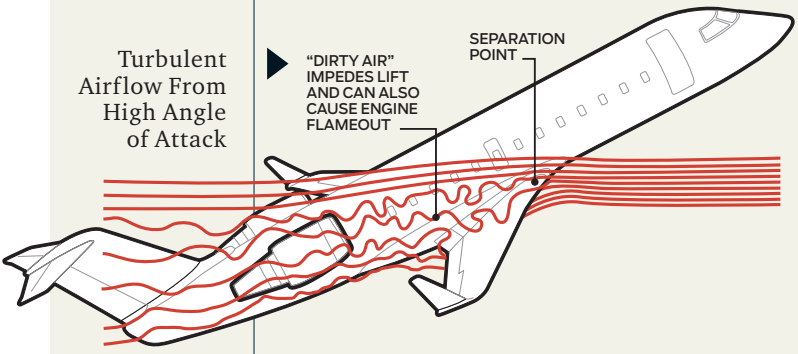
Anatomy of a Flameout

Air usually flows smoothly over a wing. If a plane's airspeed is too low, or the nose is angled too steeply upward, the air becomes turbulent. This "dirty air" reduces lift, ultimately leading to a wing stall. It also can interfere with airflow into the engines and extinguish combustion—a condition known as a flameout.

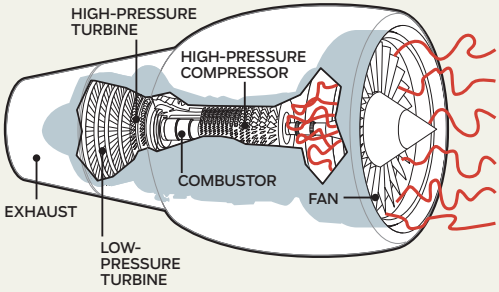
Smooth Airflow at Level Flight



Turbulent Airflow From High Angle of Attack



Inside the Engine



In Case of Flameout

1 Initiate a windmill restart using airspeed gained in a rapid dive to spin crucial engine parts.

2 Attempt an auxiliary power unit restart—usually below 15,000 ft.—relying on pneumatic pressure to restart the engine.

3 Prepare for a forced landing at the nearest airport.