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News Release

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Detroit Metro Airport to Conduct Full-Scale Emergency Response Exercise *-- August 14 drill required every three years by FAA*

On Friday, August 14, Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA), in coordination with more than 40 community and business partners, will exercise the Airport community's full-scale emergency response procedures in the event of a mass-casualty aircraft disaster at Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW).

"Air travel remains one of the safest means of transportation available, and Friday's drill is an important part of the Airport Authority's commitment to its mission of providing safe and secure air transportation facilities for the benefit of our customers," said WCAA CEO Lester Robinson. "In the unfortunate and infrequent event of a major aircraft disaster, having a well-rehearsed emergency response plan is critical to saving lives."

As part of its certification requirements under Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 139, WCAA is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct such a full-scale emergency response exercise at least once every three years. The drill ensures the airport's preparedness to respond in the event of an aircraft disaster and provides an opportunity to thoroughly review and enhance its emergency response procedures.

The scenario for this year's exercise simulates the airport's response to an aircraft crash landing on the southeast corner of the airport property near the airport's largest storm water retention pond. The exercise will provide an opportunity to simulate both land and water rescue, as well as firefighting, emergency medical services, and coordinated activities by airport police, airfield operations, public affairs, emergency management and airline teams.

The emergency exercise is closed to the public. In order to conduct this important exercise, the Airport Authority will close Middlebelt Road between Northline Road and Eureka Road beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, August 14. It is expected that the roadway will reopen by Noon.

(more)

The exercise is supported by a broad base of community organizations—some of which would realistically play a role in such a disaster response effort, and others that have generously donated use of space and resources to support the exercise itself.

Organizations participating in and/or supporting Friday's exercise include Delta Air Lines, Wayne County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Wayne County Department of Public Service, Wayne County Medical Examiners Office, City of Romulus, City of Dearborn, Canton Township, Disaster Area Recovery Team (DART), Western Wayne Fire Mutual Aid, Downriver Fire Mutual Aid, NOMADS World Travel Club, Little Caesars Pizza, Salvation Army, Health Emergency Medical Services (HEMS), Superior Ambulance, Medic One Ambulance, Rapid Response EMS, HealthLink Ambulance, Community EMS, DMCare Ambulance, Beaumont Medical Transportation, Huron Valley Ambulance, The Metropolitan Hotel, Masters Green, Allied Career Institute. Representatives from an additional 20 organizations will participate on scene to help guide the scenario.

MEDIA ONLY -- NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

Members of the media who wish to cover the exercise should arrive at the airport by 8:00 a.m. on Friday morning, August 14, and enter the Airport property off Middlebelt Road via Gate M-203 (approximately ½ mile south of Northline Road). ***Media will be required to present their organization-issued press credentials, which must include a color photo, in order to access Middlebelt Road between Northline Road and Eureka Road.***

Limited parking on-scene will be available for broadcast trucks (no more than one per organization). All trucks must be clearly marked with station identification in order to access the exercise site. All other media will be directed to a designated parking area adjacent to the exercise site and will then proceed to the scene on foot. Media attending should wear appropriate footwear for rugged, potentially wet terrain.

Interview opportunities with Airport Authority CEO Lester Robinson, Wayne County Executive Robert Ficano, and other Airport and community leaders will be available on site as the exercise is underway. Media will not have access to interview any of the responders actively engaged in the scenario, but will be invited to the debriefing at the conclusion of the exercise where those responders and other participants may be available for interviews.

(See Map on Page 3)

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AIRPORT EXERCISE - MAP FOR MEDIA OBSERVERS

August 14, 2009 → 8:00 a.m. EDT

