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Clark County Department of Aviation - Randall H. Walker, Director*



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, October 22, 2012
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McCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO HOST FULL-SCALE EMERGENCY EXERCISE ON WEDNESDAY

Emergency teams will respond to a simulated mass casualty incident involving aircraft; smoke, pyrotechnics and actors add realism to triennial drill

The Clark County Department of Aviation will conduct its 2012 Triennial Emergency Preparedness Exercise at McCarran International Airport on the morning of Wednesday, Oct. 24.

The realistic exercise, which took more than a year to plan, will simulate an emergency incident near one of McCarran's busiest runways using a "Trans-Pacific Airlines" Boeing 767 passenger jet. Local fire, police and rescue personnel will coordinate their response just as they would during a real-world event, including the expected use of ambulances and rescue helicopters to transport from the scene any victims requiring medical attention.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires most U.S. airports to complete an emergency preparedness exercise once every three years in order to maintain their certification. Smoke, pyrotechnics and a busy on-airport setting will contribute to the realism of the drill. The exercise will feature a progressive scenario that limits participants' advance knowledge of what's unfolding around them, a technique that's meant to improve their abilities to react quickly and correctly during a stressful situation.

Nearly 100 volunteers from the United States Air Force will participate as "victims" in this exercise. Prior to the drill, these volunteers will undergo an extensive moulage process to replicate injuries that would likely result from an actual aircraft crash. Medical responders will be asked to triage these patients to determine what care is needed before directing the injured to the appropriate medical facility.

Members of the media are also invited to cover the events as they unfold on the airfield and later participate in a mock press conference that will present details of the simulated emergency.

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Editor's Note: Airport representatives will be on hand beginning at 5:30 a.m. for live interview opportunities during Wednesday's early morning newscasts. There will be a designated area at Terminal 2 for television live trucks to park and conduct interviews. Access to the moulage process will be available as well. Media wishing to attend should contact Christine Crews by cell at (702) 767-8170 to coordinate parking.

At the end of the drill, media are also invited to attend the exercise's mock press conference which will take place at the airport's Administration Building located at 1845 E. Russell Road. Airport representatives will also be available for post-event, "real world" interviews at this time.