



Las Vegas • McCarran International Airport

NEWS RELEASE

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McCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO HOST FULL-SCALE EMERGENCY EXERCISE ON WEDNESDAY

Emergency teams will respond to a simulated accident involving multiple aircraft; smoke, pyrotechnics and mass casualties add realism to triennial drill

The Clark County Department of Aviation will conduct its 2006 Triennial Emergency Preparedness Exercise at McCarran International Airport on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 8 to 10:30 a.m.

The realistic exercise, which took more than a year to plan, will simulate an emergency incident near one of McCarran's busiest runways using an Airbus A-319 passenger jet and a smaller Gulfstream 200 private aircraft. 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 shuttle victims to 10 participating Southern Nevada hospitals.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires 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 this year's drill. And unlike years past, this week's exercise will feature a progressive scenario that limits participants' advance knowledge of what's unfolding around them. The change is expected to improve their abilities to react quickly and correctly during a stressful situation.

Approximately 160 high school students from the Southern Nevada Vocational Technical Center and Area Technical Trade Center will pose as "victims." Prior to the drill, those students 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 participate in a mock press conference that will present details of the simulated emergency.

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Editors Note: Airport representatives will be on hand beginning at 5:30 a.m. for live interview opportunities during Wednesday's morning newscasts. Television vehicles should go to the zero level for ENG, and only live trucks can park curbside near Champion Air's ticketing gate for live interviews and footage of the moulage process.

Media will be escorted onto the tarmac to shoot footage of the drill as it progresses. Escorts will later bring interested media back to the airport's joint information center for the mock press event, and "real world" interviews after the exercise has been completed.



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