

## **EXHIBIT “H”: NEWS MEDIA PLAN - EMERGENCIES**

### **ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

#### PRIORITIES

It is the policy of Pinellas County and the Airport to facilitate coverage of a newsworthy event. However, the responsibility of safeguarding lives and property in an emergency must take precedence over access to the news media.

Therefore, only after the emergency is declared under control or sufficiently secured by the Airport Director or his representative will the news media be accommodated or escorted to the scene of the incident. During the initial, Emergency-in-progress phase, all Restricted Area gates will be sealed, except for emergency vehicles and personnel. Media should contact the Airport PIO for more information. In the event of a major (mass casualty) accident, the Media Briefing Information Center (below) will be activated.

After the emergency is under control press representatives who have been issued credentials and/or special armbands may be escorted into the Restricted Area, to the scene of the emergency.

NOTE: Credentials and identification armbands may be issued by the official Airport Representative at the Media Briefing Information Center after presenting appropriate agency press credentials. NO ADMITTANCE TO THE AIRFIELD WILL BE PERMITTED WITHOUT PROPER IDENTIFICATION.

#### MEDIA BRIEFING INFORMATION CENTER (MAJOR ACCIDENT)

Media covering major (mass casualty) emergencies at the Airport should proceed to the Airport Terminal Building (see map on page 5 - Terminal /Media Center), Media Briefing Information Center unless otherwise advised. This will be located at Conference Room 234, unless otherwise designated by the Airport Director.

#### TRANSPORTATION TO THE INCIDENT

When the airfield or area is declared secure by the Airport Director or his representative, transportation and/or escort will be provided to the scene in as timely a manner as possible. “Live truck crews” will be instructed where to meet for escort to the site. Media will be allowed as close to the incident as possible consistent with safety and rescue operational requirements.

## BRIEFING

As soon as possible, a preliminary briefing for the media will be conducted by the Airport Director or his/her designee in the Media Briefing Information Center.

The following information will be provided as soon as possible when the incident is airline or aircraft related:

1. Type of aircraft
2. Aircraft owner
3. Number of passengers
4. Runway used
5. Flight number
6. Destination
7. Additional information should be obtained through the individual airline.

Pinellas County Public Service & Information personnel will assist the Airport Director's Office. The following information will be provided when incident is not airline or aircraft related:

1. Type of incident
2. Name of agency
3. Contact person
4. Number of persons involved
5. Location
6. Additional information should be obtained through the individual agency.

As information develops and updates are available, appointed airline representatives as well as other involved agencies will hold briefings and updates in the appropriate media room or other designated area.

## SAFETY & SECURITY

As rescue operations permit and after safety and security perimeters have been established, every effort will be made to give all media personnel the best vantage point from which to view the area. The second floor roof observation deck (Terminal Building) may be made accessible, prior to on-scene escort.

NOTE: Under no circumstances will the media or any other personnel not involved in life-saving or firefighting operations be permitted inside safety/security lines until all rescue operations have been completed.

## BOMB THREATS

1. In the event of a bomb threat, the aircraft will be directed to a primary search area.
2. The Airport Director or his/her designee will have the responsibility of establishing a restricted area for authorized news media. A minimum distance from the aircraft will be established and transportation or convoy arrangements will be made as circumstances allow.

## BOMB THREATS - TERMINAL

In the event of bomb threat to the terminal, the media will be advised as soon as possible where to meet and be given pertinent information regarding the situation from the Airport Director or his/her designee.

## HIJACK (AIR PIRACY)

In the event of a hijack attempt, the aircraft will be parked in a designated area. Members of the media will be restricted from the area until it is determined that danger to them or others has passed. Attempts will be made to provide a view of the aircraft once the safety and security requirements have been met. When feasible the Airport Briefing Information Center will be utilized.

## SUMMARY

1. Safety takes priority.
2. To facilitate safe coverage, access to the airfield from any point, will be accommodated ONLY by designated radio equipped Airport vehicles as soon as circumstances permit.
3. Proper identification cards are required at time of coverage.
4. The Airport Media Briefing Information Center will be used in an emergency unless otherwise advised.

NOTE: Familiarize yourself with Airport roads, access, and structures to avoid confusion during an actual incident. Your comments and assistance are appreciated. As necessary, this procedure will be revised to meet changing conditions and personnel.

No two emergencies are alike. These procedures are intended to allow maximum coverage by the news media while not interfering with safety operations. Please help us to help you by adhering to procedures. Thank you for your cooperation.

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