

News Release



St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport

® A Pinellas County Government Service

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL SCHEDULED AT ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport will conduct an Emergency Preparedness Drill on Saturday April 2nd at 8:00 PM. News Media is invited to attend and learn about the emergency plan and the media protocol during aircraft-related emergencies. In addition, the United States Coast Guard Air Station will host a variety of exercises throughout the day in conjunction with the FL3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that all certified commercial service airports conduct a full-scale emergency exercise once every three years to assess their emergency response capabilities in the event of an actual air disaster. The drill will involve more than 100 participants and volunteers in a simulated crash involving a United States Coast Guard C-130 Aircraft with approximately 60 persons on board. Agencies involved in the exercise include Airport Rescue and Firefighters, 911, Airport Operations, FAA Air Traffic Control, Emergency Services (Municipal Fire/EMS), Transportation Security Administration, United States Coast Guard, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Medical Director's Office and Office of Emergency Management, and the FL-3 Disaster Medical Assistance Team.

The exercise will be completed by 11:00 PM on Saturday, April 2nd. Any efforts to alert the public by the media that these are staged events would be greatly appreciated.

Media access to the event staging area will be at Gate Q (Quebec) off of Fairchild Drive (adjacent to UPS) at the west end of the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport Terminal. Media may enter beginning at 7:00 PM and may not enter after 7:45 PM. A briefing and overview of the media plan will be given at 7:30 at the Press Staging Area. Public Information Officers of various agencies will give additional briefings throughout the exercise. Opportunities for media to photograph and video the event and aircraft accompanied by an Airport escort will be available at the event. No prior arrangements are necessary.

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