

fly2pie.com @iflypie facebook.com/Fly2PIE

MEDIA RELEASE

April 12, 2017

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL SCHEDULED AT ST. PETE-CLEARWATER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT on April 18th

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) will conduct an Emergency Preparedness Drill on Tuesday, April 18th at 9:00 a.m. News Media is invited to attend and learn about the emergency plan and the media protocol during aircraft-related emergencies.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires that all certified commercial service airports conduct a full-scale emergency exercise every three years to assess their emergency response capabilities in the event of an actual air disaster. The drill scenario involves a commercial passenger aircraft on final approach for landing encountering a thunderstorm and experiencing a downburst just prior to touchdown, contributing to landing gear failure upon landing.

Agencies involved in the exercise include Airport Rescue and Firefighting, Airport Operations, FBI, Allegiant Airlines, 911, FAA Air Traffic Control, Emergency Services (Municipal Fire/EMS), Law Enforcement, Transportation Security Administration, Medical Director's Office, Office of Emergency Management, and Red Cross. Pinellas Park High School First Responders Program students will participate in the drill by portraying incident victims. Additionally, PIE's Big Brothers Big Sisters/Clearwater High School Workplace Mentor Students will participate in the drill by shadowing their PIE Airport mentors. The exercise will conclude by 11:00 a.m. with additional emergency exercises and evaluations following.

The media's assistance in alerting the public that this is a staged event would be greatly appreciated. **Media interested in attending the active drill is asked to meet at the Airport Fire Station on Fairchild Drive no later than 8:30 a.m.** Media will be escorted to the staging area and may not enter after 8:45 a.m. A briefing and overview of the Airport Media Plan will be distributed. Public Information Officers of other agencies may be available to provide additional briefings throughout the exercise. There will be an opportunity for media to photograph and video the event. Media parking will be at the Airport Fire Station. Media vehicles may be escorted to the observation site.

Airport Property Map:

<http://www.fly2pie.com/docs/default-source/maps/airportpropertiesmap2014.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Contact: Michele Routh, Airport Public Relations Director mrouth@fly2pie.com 727-453-7879