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Huntsville International Airport Holds Full-scale Emergency Response Disaster Drill

Emergency preparedness exercise involves more than 12 agencies

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., April 24, 2008 – The Huntsville International Airport Department of Public Safety today conducted a full-scale emergency response disaster drill – a requirement by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under Part 139 of the Federal Aviation Regulations – in order to maximize safety at the airport in the event of an emergency. This requirement to test airport/airfield emergency response is a condition precedent to U.S. airports' operating certification by FAA standards. Each certificate holder must coordinate its emergency plan with local law enforcement agencies, rescue and firefighting agencies, medical personnel and hospital organizations, principal airport tenants and all other entities that have responsibility under the plan.

Huntsville International Airport is required to hold a full-scale airport emergency plan exercise at least once every three years. The last full-scale exercise held at Huntsville International was in 2005. Tabletop exercises are conducted annually to ensure that all information, procedures and training are current. The ability to successfully respond to any emergency depends on the cooperation and partnership among the various agencies. More than 12 agencies participated in today's drill.

"Safety and security continue to be priorities at the highest levels," said Doug Kreulen, Director of Operations, Huntsville International Airport. "Disaster preparedness and emergency response training with all of our emergency response providers is an integral part of our daily operation."

According to Chief Greg Garner, Department of Public Safety, Huntsville International Airport, "The Huntsville International Airport Department of Public Safety welcomes the opportunity to train with other agencies to ensure that our communication and response continue to be top-notch. We learn a lot from these drills, and the experience gives us a greater edge in preparedness."

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