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DUPAGE AIRPORT PERFORMS FULL-SCALE EMERGENCY EXERCISE

SIMULATED PLANE CRASH TESTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

WEST CHICAGO, Ill. (Saturday, Oct. 7) – Representatives from more than a dozen local and federal agencies took part in a live emergency exercise of a simulated plane crash Saturday at DuPage Airport (DPA) in West Chicago.

Participants in the emergency preparedness exercise included the West Chicago Fire Protection District, West Chicago Police Department, St. Charles Fire Department, the Salvation Army and several area police and fire departments.

“We are committed to the safety of our users, employees, neighbors and first responders,” said Mark Doles, Executive Director of the DuPage Airport Authority. “This drill provided a great opportunity to work alongside our local and federal agency partners to ensure we are all prepared in the event of an emergency on or near airport property.”

The exercise, which ran from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., was strategically designed to test response protocols, mobilization tactics and coordination among emergency crews in the unfortunate event of a crash.

Officials from the DuPage County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security observed the drill to evaluate the exercise and provide feedback to participants.

“These live scenarios are a crucial component of our emergency preparation and response training,” said Chief Patrick Tanner of the West Chicago Fire Protection District. “Our crews value any opportunity to work alongside local partners and other first responders to prepare for critical incidents that may happen at the airport.”

DPA’s on-site aircraft rescue and firefighting station is staffed 24/7/365 in order to facilitate a quicker and more efficient response to any potential emergencies. In recent years, the airport has also undertaken runway widening, lengthening and rehabilitation projects that help to ensure the facility can safely accommodate the more than 100,000 flight operations it serves annually.

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