

Airport Emergency Response Exercise

Tampa, Fla. (April 22, 2002) - - On Wednesday, April 24, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority will conduct its Triennial Full Scale Emergency Response Exercise in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations.

Prior to the Exercise at 8:30 a.m., the Aviation Authority is hosting a 30-minute Media Briefing at the site. The media is invited to participate in this briefing to discuss Crisis Communications.

Speaking to the media will be representatives from the Aviation Authority, the Federal Aviation Administration, Tampa Fire Rescue, American Airlines and the America Red Cross.

The Exercise will include extensive airport, medical, law enforcement and fire rescue units from throughout the Tampa Bay area

The scenario involves Sunshine Airways flight #123, a Boeing 767, with approximately 210 passengers on board veers off Runway 18L/36R while landing due to a right gear collapse causing numerous injuries. The aircraft comes to rest on Taxiway E, just south of the entrance to the Delta Air Lines Hangar.

Other primary objectives of the Exercise are to test the ability of Hillsborough County's 14 hospitals and four outpatient surgical clinics to receive and treat a sudden mass influx of casualties with assorted injuries. The Airport will receive approximately 220 volunteer "victims" from Jefferson High School in full moulage.

Media representatives may drive directly to the Exercise site which will be situated at the corner of South West Shore Blvd and M.L. King Blvd in Drew Park, by the Delta Air Lines Maintenance Hangar (look for signs and tent).

In addition, transportation will be provided from the Landside Terminal Building, Level Two, Red Side, by the Valet Parking drop off area. The shuttle will run every 15 minutes from 7:45 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., then every 30 minutes. If you plan to attend, please contact the Public Information and Community Relations department at 813/870-8707. ###

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