



HUNTSVILLE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
INTERNATIONAL INTERMODAL CENTER
JETPLEX INDUSTRIAL PARK

PORT OF HUNTSVILLE
1000 Glenn Hearn Blvd.
Box 20008
Huntsville, AL 35824

Tel: 256.772.9395
Fax: 256.772.0305
www.hsvairport.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Laura L. Gipson
256-258-1977
lgipson@hsvairport.org

NEWS RELEASE

Huntsville International Airport Holds Full-scale Emergency Response Disaster Drill

Emergency preparedness exercise involves more than 25 surrounding agencies

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., September 29, 2010 – The Huntsville International Airport Operations Department 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 all commercial 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 April 2008. 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 25 surrounding agencies participated in today's drill.

"Safety and security of the traveling public is our highest priority," 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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