

Lakeland Linder Regional Airport to hold Full-Scale Emergency Exercise

Lakeland, Fla. (February 15, 2016) A full-scale emergency exercise, designed to test the capabilities of airport and community emergency response staff in the event of an aviation incident, is being held at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport on Thursday, Feb. 18 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

More than 150 individuals will gather to participate in the exercise. The scenario involves a commercial aircraft unable to make an emergency landing on runway 9 but instead lands in the Airport's solar farm, a mile west of the approach end of runway 9. Emergency agencies in and around Polk County will respond to the simulated scenario. There will be signage along Drane Field Rd. indicating that a training exercise is in progress. There will be numerous vehicles and large apparatus entering and exiting Drane Field Rd. and Hamilton Rd. along the airport's property, where the exercise will be taking place. The community should be advised there is no need for concern.

The exercise involves the active participation of approximately 15 agencies including Lakeland Linder Airport, Lakeland Police Department, Lakeland Fire Department, Polk County Health Department, Lakeland Regional Health, Lakeland Electric, Polk County Emergency Management, Polk County Fire Rescue, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Central Florida Aerospace Academy. This exercise allows personnel from the various agencies to apply their knowledge and test their abilities to effectively communicate and work as a cohesive unit.

A team of evaluators will be present to judge the effectiveness of the exercise and the readiness of responding crews. The exercise will have no effect on airport operations.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires all FAR Part 139 airports to conduct a full-scale emergency exercise every three years and tabletop exercise every other year to maintain the response effectiveness of each agency involved. This exercise will satisfy the triennial requirement.

For more information about Lakeland Linder Regional Airport visit www.LakelandAirport.com. **If any member of the media would like to cover the event, please contact Polk County Communications Specialist, Brad Ruhmann at bradleyruhmann@polk-county.net or (863) 797-4562.**

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