



DUPAGE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

October 30, 2009

Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Vehicle Water Supply Drill at DuPage Airport

WEST CHICAGO, Illinois, October 30, 2009 – Together with the West Chicago Fire Protection District, DuPage Airport Air Traffic Control Tower, and three other mutual aid companies, a water supply drill will take place on Monday, November 2nd, Tuesday, November 3rd and Wednesday, November 4th to practice supplying water to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting vehicles, Rescue 822 and 823.

This will be the first real-time exercise involving mutual aid companies including the St. Charles Fire Department, the Bartlett Fire Protection District and the Winfield Fire Protection District. Each entity will bring a large water supply vehicle, called a tender, which holds 2,500 gallons of water. The purpose of this exercise is to acclimate all mutual aid companies while operating on the airfield and supplying water to the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) vehicles. By conducting this exercise, it helps the airport become a safer place to operate. The exercise will be staged near the Hawthorne Ramp, runway 2R/20L and Taxiway C using a mock-up of an aircraft fuselage. Roughly 25-30 people will be involved.

Currently, sixteen of the West Chicago Fire Protection District's thirty-six fire fighters are certified as an Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter. "It is our goal to make operations at DuPage Airport as safe as possible," said Vic Youngberg, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Coordinator at the West Chicago Fire Protection District. Vic, along with Chris Youngberg, are Nationally Certified Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighters. Chris is the head instructor for the ARFF Training Division at West Chicago.

Recently, the DuPage Airport Authority and West Chicago Fire Protection District entered into an agreement where the West Chicago Fire Protection District will provide 24/7/365 dedicated airport coverage. This level of safety is unparalleled in the Chicagoland area for airports that serve general aviation and business aviation users. This is the first, quarterly, on-airfield exercise of this scale following the new agreement.

For media inquiries or interview questions, please contact David Bird, DuPage Airport Authority Executive Director, at 630.208.6183.

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Located in West Chicago, the fastest growing suburb in DuPage County, the DuPage Airport Authority operates one of the region's busiest general and corporate aviation airports. Home to the largest concentration of corporate aircraft in Illinois, the DuPage Airport offers 2,800 acres of property with over 30 businesses, including the internationally-recognized DuPage Flight Center, the 800-acre DuPage National Technology Park, and a championship-style golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. A total of 1,200 acres of the property are solely dedicated to airfield activities, further demonstrating the dedication to the needs of both business and recreational aviation communities. For more information about the DuPage Airport Authority, call (630) 584-2211 or visit www.dupageairport.com.