

## APEX 2013

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) will hold an FAA mandated emergency preparedness exercise on Saturday, September 21, 2013 from 8:30 AM to approximately noon.

A simulated aircraft accident will test the Airport's emergency response while providing hands-on training to airport and airline staff, hospitals, local jurisdictions and other emergency personnel.

During the exercise, emergency personnel will respond as in a real emergency, including the use of sirens, firefighting equipment and helicopters.

The exercise will be held in the secured airfield operations area and will not affect normal airport operations or flights.

The exercise will include the following elements to add realism to the simulated emergency:

- \* A trainer aircraft that will be ignited on fire for training purposes
- \* Participation by Airports Authority Fire and Rescue, Police and Airport Operations personnel
- \* More than 50 responding emergency vehicles, including mutual aid from 13 surrounding fire departments transporting 'patients' to local hospitals
- \* Nearly 150 volunteer role players, moulaged to simulate injuries sustained from the incident
- \* A commercial passenger US Airways aircraft, from which 'patients' will be rescued
- \* Boats will deploy as part of a river rescue emergency response
- \* Support helicopters responding to the emergency exercise

The full-scale emergency preparedness exercise, which is the culmination of months of planning and coordination across multiple jurisdictions and disciplines, is part of FAA-mandated safety training to ensure that airports are prepared for real-life aircraft emergencies. Airports are required to conduct this exercise every three years in order to be certified by the FAA.

Some of the exercise elements may be seen or heard on Saturday morning from areas surrounding the airport - especially in Arlington and Alexandria near Route 1, George Washington Memorial Parkway, I-395 and along the Potomac River near the airport.

This is only an exercise.

It is not open to the public.