

QUARTERLY ASCERTAINMENTS / COMMUNITY ISSUES

STATION: WVAQ—November, 2023

SUBJECT: Emergency Drill this week at Bridgeport Airport.

DISCUSSION:

Emergency responders in Bridgeport and personnel from the North Central West Virginia Airport will hold an emergency drill on Wednesday, Nov . 11, at 4 p.m. Director of Emergency Management for the City of Bridgeport, Tim Curry, says multiple agencies and their emergency response plans will be tested during the full-scale exercise.

"This is going to be a full-scale exercise at the North Central West Virginia Airport that's going to be working with county-wide emergency services and the airport staff, and it's going to be an airplane accident," Curry said.

It's likely residents will see activity in and around the airport or hospital, but Curry said it's all part of the training exercise that is expected to last about two hours.

"People could see emergency apparatus heading toward the airport; they could see a large number of ambulances at the hospital because we'll be transporting some simulated patients to the hospital," Curry said.

Curry said there are many benefits to holding these events with organizations they do not train with often. In addition to evaluating responses, agencies and airport staff also learn specific details about the capabilities of local first responders. Individual organizations will not have the opportunity to make plan adjustments as a result of training, which is a real tragedy.

"If something bad does ever happen, we'll know how we will work together with other agencies and what their capabilities are, and we'll be testing the emergency response plan for the airport to see how they fit into everything," Curry said. "So, if we have to go back to the drawing board after the exercise, we'll know where our weaknesses are."

Curry said extra personnel will be on duty across all agencies in case an actual emergency does occur.

"It's all a drill, and no services will be impacted," Curry said. "The hospital will still be doing their normal thing; the airport will be doing their normal thing; there won't be any impact on normal operations anywhere."

The Federal Aviation Administration requires airports to hold full-scale emergency response exercises every three years.

DATE: November 8, 2023

TIME / DURATION: 2:10

GUESTS: Tim Curry--Director of Emergency Management for the City of Bridgeport.

MEDIA INTEREST: Talk of the Town – WAJR, Dominion Post, WVAQ, WKKW, WBOY, WDTV, facebook, twitter

YEAR: 2023

QUARTER: 4th

