



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, June 10, 2010

EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE HELD AT CAYMAN BRAC AIRPORT

Earlier this week, the Cayman Islands Airports Authority (CIAA) spearheaded an Emergency Response Exercise, which entailed the simulation of an aircraft accident at Gerrard-Smith International Airport (G-SIA) in Cayman Brac at 11:02 am on Monday, 7th June. The Exercise allowed first responders from the CIAA, the Cayman Islands Fire Service, Royal Cayman Islands Police Service and the Health Services Authority/Faith Hospital to test their readiness in the event of a real aircraft emergency at the airport.

In this Exercise the teams responded to the landing of a Saab 340 aircraft, with 19 persons on board, which reported that it was experiencing hydraulic failures and requested that all emergency services be put on standby. On landing the aircraft sustained landing gear damage resulting in it veering off the runway onto a grassed area on the south side before bursting into flames.

Emergency services from G-SIA responded to the accident scene and performed fire fighting and rescue operations. Once fire fighters had extinguished the blaze, the next phase entailed the rescue and recovery of passengers who were then triaged. Passengers were assessed and taken to the Advanced Medical Post (AMP) where further assessment and stabilisation was carried out by medical personnel from Faith Hospital. Passengers with serious trauma were systematically transported by ambulance to the Hospital for further treatment.

The next phase of the Exercise was the establishment of an Incident Command Post (ICP) by the Aerodrome Fire Service who was the first authority on the scene. The Fire Service then handed over responsibility for the ICP to the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) who immediately set about providing instructions for the preservation of the accident scene and crowd control, in conjunction with the CIAA Security Unit. At the ICP representatives from all emergency responders immediately gathered and commenced liaison with the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), which was established in the conference room at Gerrard-Smith International Airport.



Cayman Islands Airports Authority

The ECC was manned by the following representatives: District Commissioner, Mr. Ernie Scott who also served as liaison for Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI); Senior Manager Airport Operations (Cayman Brac) Mr. Rohendis Britton; Station Manager for Cayman Airways, Mrs. Lucille Walton, Faith Hospital Manager, Mrs. Yvette Dilbert; Divisional Officer for the Cayman Brac Fire Service, Mr. Gary Scott; and RCIPS Area Commander, Mr. Malcolm Kay. Information gathered by the ECC was shared with the National Emergency Operations Centre, which was activated in Grand Cayman for the dissemination of information on activities in relation to the incident.

On hand to observe the management of the crisis from various agencies were: Aerodromes Safety Inspector from the Civil Aviation Authority Cayman Islands (CAA) Mr. John Dick, CEO for the Cayman Islands Airports Authority, Mr. Jeremy Jackson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mr. Steve Webster, as well as RCIPS Superintendent, Mr. Adrian Seales and RCIPS Press Officer, Ms. Janet Dougall. Also assisting at the accident scene was a representative from the Disaster Management Unit of the Red Cross, Mr. Peter Hughes. The Senior Manager Safety Management Systems for the CIAA, Mr. Andrew McLaughlin was in the field assisting agencies with resources while the CIAA's Senior Manager Airport Security, Mr. Shane Bothwell, CIAA's Senior Manager Air Navigation Services, Mr. Walter Ebanks, CIAA's Senior Manager Engineering & Projects, Mr. Carl McCoy, and the CAA's Director for Air Navigation Services Regulation, Mr. Alastair Robertson, was on hand to critique the joint response exercise.

Commenting on the staging of the mock exercise, CIAA's CEO, Mr. Jeremy Jackson, remarked, "The CIAA expresses its gratitude to all agencies involved in this Emergency Response Exercise and thanks the students of the Cayman Brac High School for their participation as volunteer passengers. This Exercise was extremely beneficial to all emergency response agencies and the team at Gerrard-Smith International Airport as it is crucial that we are in a state of readiness at all times in the event of a real aircraft accident on Cayman Brac. Overall, I was pleased with the performance of all emergency response partners whose representatives will attend a debriefing later this week to discuss their respective outcomes and areas that need to be addressed in order to enhance their response to such Incidents."

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If you have any queries, kindly contact:

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