

First Responders to Learn Aircraft Accident Scene Safety Tonight at Dutchess County Airport

Airport's New Fire & Rescue Vehicle part of training exercise

Poughkeepsie... Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel from the New Hackensack Fire and Arlington Fire Districts will participate in Aircraft Accident Scene Safety training at 7pm tonight at the Dutchess County Airport in the Town of Wappinger. The training is an opportunity for emergency first responders to understand the unique aspects of airport accident scenes and offers a chance for the first responders to become familiar with the Airport's new rescue vehicle acquired earlier this year through Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and New York State grant funding.

"Emergency first responders confront very different conditions when there is an accident at an airport as compared to what they will encounter elsewhere. This training is designed to help prepare them for those unique conditions and understand the tools and equipment we have available to help ensure safety at an accident scene here," said Dutchess County Airport Director Ed Rose.

First responders will review the type of accident occurrences that may happen at an airport, airport scene safety including the hazards specific to aircrafts such as:

- Engines and propellers
- Aviation fuels
- On board haz mat
- Stored energy components
- Composite Airframes
- Airbags
- Ballistic parachutes.

First responders will also have the chance to work with the Airport's new fire and rescue vehicle, a 2011 Rosenbauer Panther 4x4. The rescue vehicle carries 1,500 gallons water, 200 gallons of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) 3% Foam and 500 pounds of dry chemical powder. Foam and dry chemical capabilities are a necessity for aircraft fire/rescue. With more than 110 aircrafts based at the Dutchess County Airport, including over \$250 million in aviation assets at AAG alone, it is essential that the rescue vehicle is properly equipped to deal with airport emergencies that may occur.

The vehicle can also serve in more traditional fire fighting tasks and is available to local jurisdictions under mutual aid agreements. The Airport's previous rescue unit served in the key lead role several years ago during an oil tank fire in September, 2007 in the City of Poughkeepsie along the Hudson River and when an ExxonMobil gasoline tanker truck tipped over on Jackson Road, spilling approximately 12,500 gallons of gasoline, near the end of the Airport's main runway and Wappingers Creek in June, 2004.

The cost to purchase the rescue vehicle and associated equipment, including turnout gear for firefighters and additional foam and dry chemicals, was \$660,508. FAA and New York State grant funding covered 97% of the total cost with \$644,000 in funding. Total county cost was just over \$16,500 for the vehicle purchase.

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