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Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Local Emergency Responders to Conduct Full-Scale Aircraft Accident Exercise on May 4

Reporters are invited to cover the training on Saturday, May 4. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to michaela.borovac@bozemanairport.com by Thursday, May 2. Once you RSVP, detailed directions will be emailed to you.

On Saturday, May 4, 2024, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport (BZN) in conjunction with Gallatin County Emergency Management will conduct a full-scale aircraft disaster exercise on airport grounds.

This exercise will test on-scene coordination between the airport, airline, hospital and emergency response personnel from across the Gallatin Valley. It is another opportunity for these agencies to collaborate to improve emergency plans and response protocols, all for the benefit of our county's residents and visitors.

Multiple agencies, business and organizations partner with airport staff for this exercise, including Bozeman Health, Central Valley Fire District, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, Gallatin County 911, Hyalite Fire District, Salvation Army, Red Cross and numerous others.

Due to this exercise, from 10 AM to 2 PM on May 4, folks will see an increased presence of emergency response vehicles at the airport. These will be for exercise purposes only and will not impact airline or air traffic at the airport. Please do not call 911 to report.

"This exercise gives us the opportunity to test and revise our airport emergency plans as we continue to grow, not only as an airport, but also as a community," said Jake Simpson, BZN Senior Director of Operations and Maintenance. "We rely heavily on our partnerships in Gallatin County when it comes to large scale emergencies and this exercise lets us strengthen those relationships."

Kevin Larsen, Gallatin County Emergency Management's operations and training manager added: "Gallatin County Emergency Management strives to maintain a prepared and resistant community, and to support coordinated interagency responses to incidents and events throughout our county. This exercise is a great way to test plans, improve communications at numerous levels, build capability, and challenge assumptions. Collaboration with our emergency response partners builds community resiliency, and better prepares us to face a variety of disasters, both natural and man-made."

The exercise also meets the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirement for the airport to conduct a full-scale emergency exercise every three years in addition to annual table-top drills.

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