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Fire on the Airfield: But it's Only a Drill ***Denver International Airport Conducts Full-Scale Training Exercise***

DENVER – Sept. 4, 2020 – Earlier this week, a plane was literally on fire on the Denver International Airport (DEN) airfield. Fear not, it was a drill. DEN conducted an emergency response exercise simulating an aircraft emergency to evaluate and enhance the airport's emergency plans, capabilities and coordination with other agencies.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires the airport to conduct a full-scale exercise every three years. This year's event simulated a large-scale response to an aircraft crash shortly after takeoff from DEN. The exercise included the use of a 75-foot aircraft live-fire training simulator, a small number of actors playing passengers and 75 dummies used to practice medical response.

[See photos and video from the exercise here.](#)

The exercise is designed to test airport responders on incident management, firefighting operations, triage and hospital transport, reunification and communication. This year, the exercise also tested emergency response during COVID-19, including a virtual Emergency Operations Center. Over 200 people participated in the training, including multiple DEN departments, Denver Fire, Denver Health and mutual aid paramedics, Southwest Airlines, Denver medical examiners, federal agencies and partners from around the State. DEN worked with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and Denver Public Health and Environment (DDPHE) to put in place significant protective measures to keep participants safe from COVID-19 during the exercise.

This exercise will be evaluated as a portion of DEN's "Part 139" inspection which is conducted by the FAA and reviews airport operations as part of the annual airport certification process. Airport Operating Certificates are issued by the FAA and serve to ensure safety in air transportation by requiring airports to meet certain operational and safety standards and provide things such as firefighting and rescue equipment.

In addition to this mandated training exercise, DEN also conducts several smaller scale and "tabletop" exercises throughout the course of each year to test the airport's various preparedness, response and recovery plans. Training exercises provide DEN and partner agencies the opportunity to practice and develop confidence in the airport's emergency response.

Denver International Airport is the fifth-busiest airport in the United States with more than 69 million passengers traveling through the airport in 2019. DEN is the primary economic engine for the state of Colorado, generating more than \$33 billion for the region annually. For more information visit www.FlyDenver.com, check us out on [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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