
“New Horizon” Darwin International Airport Emergency Exercise

Exercise “New Horizon” will be conducted by Darwin International Airport Pty Ltd (DIA) on Wednesday 19th September 2007, commencing at approximately 0830. This operational exercise to be conducted airside, is intended to practise emergency procedures in the event of an aircraft crash at DIA.

DIA has a high volume of regular passenger transport aircraft from most major Australian airports and a large number of General Aviation aircraft movements. Approximately 67,000 aircraft operate through the airport on an annual basis.

The aim of this exercise is to raise the level of awareness of the operational requirements before, during and after a crash at an airport. The exercise also aims to ensure that local responding agencies are familiar with their roles and that current procedures are functional and appropriate.

The following agencies will be participating in the exercise:

- Airnorth Regionalink
- Australian Customs Service
- Australian Federal Police
- Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
- Australian Red Cross
- Aviation Rescue and Firefighting Service
- Darwin International Airport Pty Ltd
- Department of Immigration and Citizenship
- NT Emergency Service
- NT Fire and Rescue Service
- NT Police
- RAAF Darwin
- Salvation Army
- St John Ambulance

The scenario for this exercise involves an Embraer 170 aircraft with 50 passengers on board. As the aircraft approaches the runway for touchdown, a flock of Australian Pratincole (a commonly found species at DIA), fly across the runway into the path of the aircraft. Approximately 8 Australian Pratincole are ingested into the portside engine and a number of fires break out at the scene. At this stage, the exercise commences.

At this time the call out to outside agencies has been made and the agencies are responding to the Emergency Vehicle Reporting Area at the airport. Outside emergency services will be brought to the crash site to manage and treat casualties/injuries.

Media Note:

Media who wish to observe/cover the exercise must register with Sharon Collier on 08 8920 1808 no later than 1400 on Tuesday 18th September. Upon arrival at DIA on Wednesday 19th September, media must register at the Terminal Control Centre adjacent to Gate 6 on the ground floor by 0800.

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