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Media Contact:

Adam Gypalo

Adam@nextpa.com

Gary / Chicago International Airport Conducts Full-Scale Emergency Exercise with Regional First Responders

*FAA- Mandated "Triennial" Exercise Brings Together Nearly 20 Public Safety Agencies to Test
Coordinated Emergency Response*

(Gary, IN – June 15th 2026) – On Saturday, June 13th the [Gary / Chicago International Airport \(GCIAG\)](#) successfully conducted a full-scale, emergency preparedness exercise that included participation of nearly 20 regional public safety agencies.

The triennial exercise brought together fire and rescue teams, law enforcement, emergency medical stakeholders, and other local and regional partners to test GCIAG's ability to coordinate a rapid, multi-agency response to a simulated aircraft collision, explosion and emergency landing involving a mass-casualty scenario. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires certified airports to conduct full-scale emergency exercises every three (3) years to maintain compliance with Airport Emergency Plan (AEP) standards. These exercises are critical for airports preparing to accommodate commercial air carrier service, an objective GCIAG continues to advance.

"These triennial exercises are essential to ensuring seamless coordination between the airport's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) department and regional first responders in the event of a large-scale emergency," **said GCIAG Executive Director Dan Vicari**. "Effective emergency response depends on strong interagency collaboration, and exercises like this allow us to train in real-world conditions on the procedures that ultimately save lives."

Saturday's drill emphasized coordinated incident command, rapid deployment of fire and rescue resources, medical response and triage, and securing the airfield during an active emergency. The exercise was conducted alongside ongoing aviation operations, reflecting real-world operating conditions. The full-scale drill featured a staged aircraft incident, including a controlled explosion, fire suppression operations, victim rescue and triage, and coordinated command response among participating agencies.

In total, over 75 emergency personnel participated in this exercise. In addition to professional responders, nearly 50 community volunteers portrayed passengers and victims, helping create a realistic training environment resembling a real-world emergency.



Participating agencies included among others the City of Gary Fire Department, the Gary Police Department, Lake and Porter County emergency services, the Indiana District 1 Mass Casualty Team, and numerous fire departments, EMS providers, and regional emergency response organizations.

Full List of Participating Entities Include:

Around The Clock Ambulance; City of East Chicago Fire Department; City of Gary Fire Department; City of Gary Police Department; City of Griffith Fire Department; City of Hammond Fire Department; City of Highland Fire Department; Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD); District 1 Mass Casualty Unit; Elite Ambulance; Lake and Porter County Hazmat; Lake County Police Department; City of Hobart Fire Department; City of Lake Station Fire Department; City of Munster Fire Department; Preferred Ambulance; City of Union Fire Department; City of Lake Ridge Fire Department.

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About Gary/Chicago International Airport

Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYG) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. To learn more, visit the airport's new website at FlyGYG.com.