

News Release

May 31, 2011



Airline crash simulation exercise in Leduc on June 8 – Public event will be first use of MAFT in a Canadian city

The City of Leduc will be conducting a full-scale, emergency exercise on June 8, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The simulated emergency will be an Airbus A330 that is unable to reach Edmonton International Airport (EIA) and is forced to 'crash' land on the parking lot at the Leduc Recreation Centre (LRC).

This simulated emergency will be the first use of a Mobile Aircraft Fire Trainer (MAFT) in a Canadian city. This will also be the first time that Leduc Fire Services tests its Incident Command System (ICS), the new gold-standard for emergency response management.

The "live-fire" exercise is expected to directly involve at least 100 emergency personnel, at least 20 student actors with mock injuries, and many partner organizations including: EIA, the RCMP, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Society (STARS), the Transportation Safety Board of Canada and Leduc County. Leduc Fire Services will also be activating its emergency operations centre (EOC) to practice strategies for maintaining the city's critical services while responding to a major emergency.

"Although Leduc is at no higher risk than other cities for a disaster, we practice full-scale, simulated emergencies on a regular basis," says Leduc Mayor Greg Krischke. "Recent disasters in Slave Lake and Joplin, Missouri are vivid reminders that cities can never be over-prepared for a potential emergency, however remote the chance of a disaster actually happening."

"This very unique event will be a must-attend experience for anyone involved in emergency response management," says Leduc Fire Chief Ernie Polsom. "We're also offering a viewing area for media and interested citizens so they can safely observe a major emergency simulation exercise."

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Notes:

1. News media covering this event are asked to **register by June 7 (noon)** for briefing and seating instructions. Please email kbur@leduc.ca or call (780) 980-8450.
2. There will be a live video feed of this event on Leduc.ca plus live posts on the City of Leduc's official Facebook and Twitter sites.
3. Attached is a staging map for this emergency exercise.

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MAFT Contact

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