

## AIRPORT FULL EMERGENCY EXERCISE

23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2007

Staff at Southend Airport took part in a 'full emergency' exercise on Monday. Following a briefing given to the relevant departments and local authorities, the airport's fire brigade and local emergency services were put to the test.

The exercise was to assess the emergency arrangements at London Southend Airport and additionally to provide an opportunity for each service to assess its' capability to respond to an incident at the airport. In attendance were the Civil Aviation Authority, Essex Police, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance Service and Emergency Planning Officers from Rochford and Southend. Alastair Welch, managing director of London Southend Airport commented that "today was an excellent opportunity to practice how we respond to a very serious incident at the airport".

Once the aircraft 'landed' the airport's fire vehicles were first on scene to deal with the fire and they were assisted by a further 4 appliances from Essex fire and rescue. Over 20 casualties were on board the aircraft; played by students from South East Essex College and were covered in make-up and prosthetics for authenticity. Injuries included cuts, broken bones and one casualty was convincingly impaled by a bar!

Following the exercise there was a debrief to discuss any issues that arose. Alastair Welch said whilst he hopes never to put into practice for real, we will learn from this exercise to ensure we are well prepared, should the need arise.

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