
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denver International Airport To Host Major Medical Evacuation Exercise Training to Include Military Helicopters, 300 Participants

DENVER, CO — May 31, 2013 — Denver International Airport (DIA) will host a major exercise of the National Disaster Medical System on June 5.

The exercise, which is being coordinated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System and various community partners, will take place beginning at 8 a.m. at the Signature Flight Support Hangar at DIA, located at 7850 Harry B. Combs Parkway.

The exercise will be a major test of the National Disaster Medical System and will simulate the receiving, triage and transport of more than 150 patients to 11 metro-area hospitals via eight ground ambulances and 10 helicopters over the course of about six hours.

The National Disaster Medical System is managed by the Department of Homeland Security and may be activated in times of federally declared national or international emergencies to coordinate medical care of evacuees from the emergency area to an assigned area.

The exercise will simulate the evacuation of victims of a tornado in southern Wyoming and will include the use of military Lakota, Chinook and Blackhawk helicopters, in addition to an AirLife helicopter.

In total, more than 300 individuals from 20 community agencies will participate in the exercise. The exercise also will be the first time that children and adolescents will volunteer to be evacuated as part of the readiness exercise. Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center will be the first children's hospital in the state of Colorado to participate in this large-scale exercise.

For additional information, or to request media access to the site during the exercise, contact Daniel Warvi, Public Affairs Officer, VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System, by noon on June 4. He can be reached at 303-393-5205 or Daniel.Warvi@va.gov.

For questions about DIA's involvement in the exercise, please contact Heath Montgomery, Media Relations Director for DIA, at 303-342-2295 or heath.montgomery@flydenver.com.

The airport will be coordinating the exercise with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the FAA to ensure that the helicopter operations do not interfere with normal passenger airline traffic.

DIA will provide photos and B-roll video footage to the media following the exercise.

Denver International Airport is the 13th-busiest airport in the world and the fifth-busiest airport in the United States. With more than 50 million passengers traveling through the airport each year, DIA is one of the busiest airline hubs in the world's largest aviation market. DIA is the primary economic engine for the state of Colorado, generating more than \$22 billion for the region annually. For more information visit www.flydenver.com, check us out on [YouTube](#), like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

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