



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT - BRANSON AIRPORT ASSISTS IN COMMUNITY PREPARATION Federal, State and Local Emergency Services Coordinate Emergency Disaster Drill

BRANSON, MISSOURI – Branson Airport (BKG) is hosting one of the largest federal disaster drills executed in the nation. The exercise will focus on response to a major earthquake along the New Madrid Fault.

The drill incorporates a \$1 million 60-bed mobile medical hospital acquired through a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant, which has been set up at the Branson Airport.

This will be the first time the unit has been completely deployed. Similar to military units, it encompasses a football field and is the only unit in the nation specifically dedicated for civilian use.

While the Taney County Ambulance District maintains the unit, the Missouri-1 Disaster Medical Team (M0-1 DMT) is responsible for manning it with over 20 logistics personnel and 35 medical professionals from numerous organizations.

“This is an exciting opportunity for the airport and for me personally,” stated Louis Chapman, Branson Airport’s public safety manager. “Having Federal, State and local emergency services working together is a major asset to the community. Preparation is key should a major disaster like this ever occur in our lifetime.”

Chapman also serves as Deputy County Coroner and DMT Logistics Officer.

“I am very proud of our public safety team and all of our airport staff,” said Jeff Bourk, executive director at the Branson Airport. “This is another example of how important this great community is to all of us at the airport. Committing time & resources to this exercise is an honor.”

Set up for the drill began Monday, May 16 and the drill itself began Wednesday, May 18. Student volunteers from Forsyth High School will simulate casualties and patients with a variety of injuries.

The New Madrid Fault system is the most active in North America east of the Rockies and extends 120 miles southward from the area of Charleston, Missouri and Cairo, Illinois following Interstate 55 into Arkansas. It crosses five state lines and cuts across both the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

The most recent activity occurred on Thanksgiving evening in 1996, registering a 4.3 on the Richter scale and was felt in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Mississippi.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Great New Madrid Earthquake 1811-1812 was a series of over 2000 shocks in five months, several of which were 7.0 or above on the Richter scale. Eighteen of these rang church bells on the Eastern seaboard.

Urban legend states the Mississippi ran backwards for a period of time, but uplifts of ground and water waves gave the illusion the river was flowing upstream.

About Branson Airport: Opening its doors May of 2009, Branson Airport LLC is the first privately developed and operated commercial service airport in the United States. The Airport is serviced by AirTran Airways, Frontier Airlines and Branson AirExpress. Located in the heart of the Ozarks and centrally located in the Midwest, the airport also boasts a state of the art FBO, Branson JetCenter and a full service travel agency and public charter operator, FlyBranson Travel LLC d/b/a Branson AirExpress. For more information on Branson Airport LLC and any of its subsidiaries please visit FlyBranson.com.

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