

RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES FOR IMPLEMENTING A SIMULATED AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE DRILL DURING A REHEARSAL SHOW

30 DAYS OUT

- Crash/Fire/Rescue (CFR) notified that emergency response drill (ERD) should be conducted during rehearsal show (typically held on Friday at most weekend shows).

UPON AIR BOSS ARRIVAL AT SHOW VENUE

- Air boss, (air traffic control (ATC) if applicable, airport director (AD) if necessary) and waiver holder meet with CFR and discuss rules of engagement (ROE) for ERD.
- Air boss should discuss how long the ERD will take and how long it will take for CFR to recover back into their positions following the drill. Plan the sequence accordingly. (For example, if the air boss determines that the drill itself will take 20 minutes and CFR will take another ten minutes to return to position, then air boss should build a 30-minute slot into schedule for the rehearsal show.)

REHEARSAL DAY PERFORMER BRIEFING

- Air boss will inform everyone that an ERD should take place and review ROE, but will not issue specifics as to the time and location of drill.
- Air boss will have a private conversation with performers scheduled to perform prior to and after ERD is to take place for situational awareness. ATC considerations, particularly at 139 airports with 121 ops.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND SAMPLE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

- No water or foam will be used during this drill (to save time for refuel and minimize the risk of anything being damaged by the use of high pressure water or foam).
- ERD is not to be commenced in the middle of a performer's routine. The performer needs to run through an uninterrupted sequence.
- Do not use a performer aircraft to simulate an emergency aircraft (to ensure that a helpful and important drill does not become the cause of damage to a performer's aircraft).
- The emphasis of the drill will be on 1) communications between CFR crews, air boss and ATC; 2) CFR crews leaving their ready position(s) and traveling as quickly as possible to emergency site; and 3) CFR personnel arriving at the emergency site and announcing their availability to engage with fire suppression, emergency extraction, etc.
- Drill will also focus on identifying and correcting problem areas, complications and incorrect assumptions during a drill when lives are not potentially hanging in the balance
- At the start of ERD, air show announcer will state that this is a drill and repeat that announcement through the drill so to keep those onsite and the media from being alarmed.

AT CONCLUSION OF DRILL

- Verify all CFR units are in back in ready positions on flight line and ready to recommence show.
- If CFR team does not roll within ten (10) seconds or reaches the incident scene ready to engage within sixty (60) seconds, air boss and CFR must debrief what went wrong and determine ways to adjust and be within industry standards prior to the next show day. This should be done even if the team does make the goal, but there is consensus that they could have done better. Air boss, waiver holder, CFR, ATC and AD should be in agreement.

POTENTIAL MEDIA IMPACTS

- With rehearsal days typically also serving as media day, these drills are likely to draw media attention to the potential of an accident and the topic of air show safety. Event organizers should have talking points ready, with emphasis on the drill being just one part of the air show's commitment to and preparation for being ready for a wide variety of possible incidents. Because the topic often comes up with the press anyway, the drill will provide event organizers with an opportunity to discuss emergency planning frankly. ICAS will make available a sample list of talking points for interaction with media on this issue.