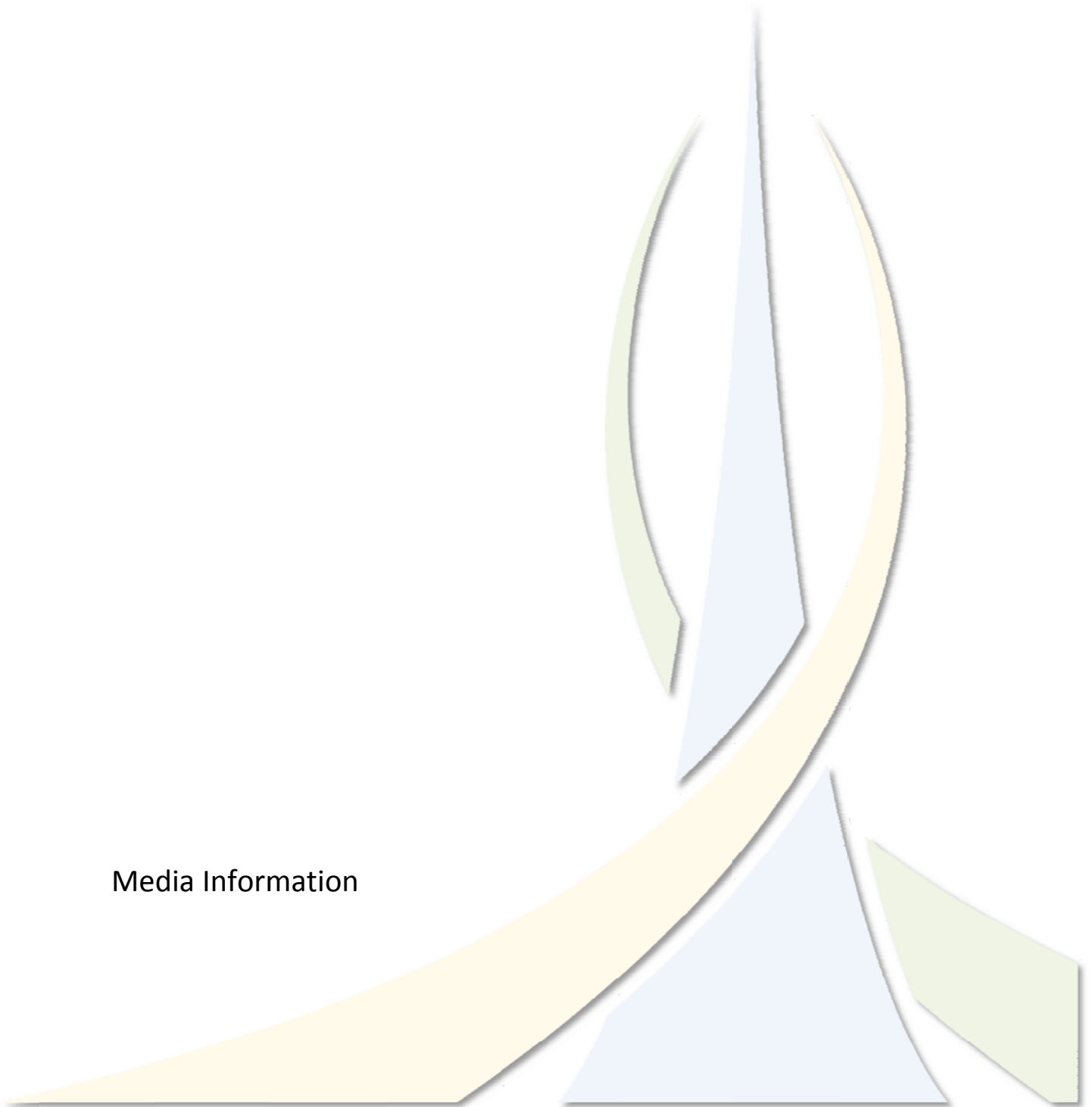


Fort Wayne Allen County Airport Authority

Airport Emergency Response 101: Who does what?

Media Information



Airport Emergency Response 101: Who does what

The Airport Authority makes every effort to meet the needs of media covering events at the airport. In the case of emergencies, there are multiple sources you will want to speak with in order to get the most up-to-date and accurate information since each agency is responsible for a different facet of emergency response. Following is a guide to help you navigate the process:

a) Fort Wayne - Allen County Airport Authority

The Fort Wayne - Allen County Airport Authority is an independent governmental entity which owns and operates the Fort Wayne International Airport and Smith Field Airport. During any emergency situation, the Airport Authority, through the Executive Director of Airports or his designee, retains responsibility for the operational control of the airport.

b) Fort Wayne-Allen County Airport Authority Public Safety Department (PSD)

The Airport Authority's Public Safety Department (PSD) will be the initial responder to any aircraft accident, utilizing its own aircraft rescue firefighting vehicles and trained emergency response personnel to begin firefighting and medical response operations. PSD assumes the role of Incident Command if the incident site is on Airport Authority Property until responding federal agencies are on scene. PSD will establish and maintain a security line at the incident site and ingress/egress points and patrol the airfield. PSD is also responsible for investigating traffic accidents and criminal activity on airport property.

c) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

The FAA is responsible for the investigation of all accidents, and must determine the facts surrounding any accident and whether any aircraft operator involved in an accident was in compliance with the regulations. Various branches of the FAA have responsibilities in an aircraft accident. For accidents or incidents that do not involve serious injury or substantial property damage, the FAA's Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) safety investigators may be responsible for carrying out the accident investigation in lieu of the NTSB. Indiana has two FSDOs. The FSDO that oversees the Fort Wayne area is located in South Bend, IN. During an investigation the FAA is

responsible for determining whether or not nine specific elements were factors in the accident:

- i) The performance of FAA facilities or functions
- ii) The performance of non-FAA-owned and operated air traffic control (ATC) facilities or navigational aids
- iii) The airworthiness of FAA-certified aircraft
- iv) The competency of FAA-certified airmen, air agencies, or operators
- v) The Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR's) were adequate
- vi) The airport certification safety standards or operations were involved
- vii) The operator/airport security standards or operations were involved
- viii) The airman medical qualifications were involved
- ix) There was a violation of the FAR's

d) Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI has jurisdiction if a hijacking or hostage incident occurs aboard an aircraft that is still on the ground, or in other certain circumstances. If the aircraft is in flight, and a hijacking or hostage-taking incident occurs, the FAA has jurisdiction with assistance from the TSA and FBI.

e) Transportation Security Administration (TSA)/ Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

The TSA is responsible for security screening of passengers and baggage as well as other security functions at the nation's airports. Although the TSA presently does not regulate security at general aviation airports such as Smith Field Airport, certain general aviation security related circumstances and events may be investigated and acted upon by the TSA. In an emergency, TSA representatives will work with Authority personnel and public safety to handle the incident as well as maintain the security of the airport and processing of passengers through security screening. The DHS is also responsible for the Air Marshal Program and Customs and Border Protection.

f) National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is a Federal Agency responsible for the investigation of all aircraft accidents and for the determination of the probable cause of those accidents. In accidents involving serious injury or substantial property damage,

the NTSB will assume custody of the aircraft and its contents upon completion of fire and rescue operations, and maintain custody until a full investigation has been concluded. Due to limited staffing, the NTSB may delegate to the FAA the authority to partially or fully investigate an accident that does not involve serious injury or substantial property damage.

g) The Airline

The passenger manifest (list of names of passengers and crewmembers on an aircraft) is released by the airline.

h) Others

Initial confirmation of any deaths resulting from the crash of a plane is made by the coroner, medical examiner, or other designated law enforcement officer, and information will not be released until family members are notified.