



Media release

Nunavik Airports: emergency exercises test emergency Plans

October 3 2013, Kuujuaq (Québec) – In October and November of this year, the Kativik Regional Government (KRG) Transportation department will be testing the emergency Plans of six of the 14 airports in Nunavik through full scale emergency simulations and the remaining emergency Plans through tabletop exercises. A first, full scale emergency simulation, will take place in Kuujuaq today.

According to Canadian Aviation regulations, each airport is required to have an emergency Plan containing information regarding the different emergencies susceptible of happening and each organization's role to ensure quick and coordinated emergency response. Every year for three years, representatives of each organization meet and test emergency Plans in a round table format called "tabletop". Full scale emergency simulations occur every fourth year.

Testing each airport's emergency Plan, requires the combined efforts of all KRG Transportation department airport employees, the Kativik Regional Police Force, the KRG Civil Security section, Rangers, Northern Village managers and the Nunavik Regional Board of Health and Social Services, as well as air controllers in Kuujuaq and Kuujuarapik.

Emergency scenarios are developed by the Transportation department coordinator and are not disclosed in advance in order to keep the simulation as close to a real emergency as possible. In previous years, scenario's included a plane crash, complete with bomb threats and emergency calls from the plane's pilots reporting a violent passenger's attempt to break in the plane's cockpit. Students as well as junior rangers volunteer as injured civilians.

"Our ultimate goal is to test the emergency Plan, of each of the 14 communities' airports. It is truly a team effort and our airport employees and partners understand that a good emergency plan can mean the difference between life and death in a real crisis. These exercises allow us to remain ready to respond swiftly and effectively, declared Nathalie Jobin, KRG's Transportation department Interim Director".

The Kativik Regional Government is a public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.

Source:

Angela A. Petru

Communications Coordinator

Kativik Regional Government

Tel. 819-964-2961, ext. 2317

media@krg.ca

www.krg.ca