



# The Delaware River and Bay Authority

# PRESS RELEASE

April 5, 2019  
For Immediate Release

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## **Full-Scale Emergency Exercise to take place at Wilmington - New Castle Airport** *Disaster Drill Set for Saturday, April 13*

**NEW CASTLE, Del.** – Today, Delaware River and Bay Authority (DRBA) officials announced that an emergency disaster exercise will be held at the Wilmington – New Castle Airport (ILG) on Saturday, April 13, 2019 starting at 9:00 a.m. Designated as Operation Blue Skywalker, the emergency exercise is expected to continue through early afternoon and will take place near the junction of Penns Way and Dales Way near the former Boeing Hangar on the north side of the airport.

“This emergency exercise provides a valuable opportunity for airport personnel, first responders, and law enforcement professionals to collectively test rescue procedures, communication, and coordination,” Senior Airports Manager Benjamin Clendaniel, referring to the FAA required exercise that must take place every three years. “Evaluators will then offer their assessment and feedback on what worked well; identify potential challenges; and what, if any, improvements could be made.”

Federal, state, and local agencies participating in this coordinated preparedness exercise include the Federal Aviation Administration; Delaware Emergency Management Agency; Delaware Department of Forensic Sciences; Delaware Air National Guard Fire Department; New Castle County Emergency Medical Services; New Castle County Office of Emergency Management; St. Francis Hospital; and Wilmington Manor Volunteer Fire Department along with surrounding area departments.

Aviation professionals and first responders will assess the procedures and interactions of responding personnel. “We value and emphasize emergency preparedness. We also hope the situation never arises when we have to apply what we learn and practice during these exercises,” Clendaniel added.

The exercise will serve as the airport's official emergency drill that satisfies the FAA requirement that all certified airports conduct a full-scale emergency exercise at least every three years. The exercise typically involves a simulated aircraft accident to test the response procedures and equipment of fire-rescue units and other emergency personnel who would be responding to an actual incident.

### **About the Delaware River and Bay Authority**

The DRBA, a bi-state governmental agency created by Compact in 1962, owns and operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, the Cape May- Lewes Ferry, and the Forts Ferry Crossing. The DRBA also manages corporate and aviation properties through its economic development powers - two airports in New Jersey (Millville Airport and Cape May Airport) and three in Delaware (New Castle Airport, Civil Air Terminal and Delaware Airpark). All DRBA operating revenues are generated through the bridge, ferry and airport facilities. For more information, visit [www.drba.net](http://www.drba.net).