



Airport Teams With CareFlight for Emergency Preparation

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The recognizable rotors of CareFlight touched down at Dayton International Airport three times in recent weeks, part of a hands-on training program to further prepare the airport fire department for emergencies.

"The more we train, the better prepared we can be to act," said Fire Chief Bruce Bales. "We've only needed to call CareFlight a handful of times, but when we need them, it's really important that we know how to work with them."

CareFlight, the helicopter response unit of Miami Valley Hospital, is called when an emergency medical response not impeded by street traffic is deemed necessary, typically at the site of an accident. At the airport, the fire department might call on the unit in situations including accidents occurring on runways or restricted areas or patients with serious medical emergencies.



The CareFlight training took place in three rounds to accommodate the

majority of the 22 firefighters who staff the airport fire department and covered subjects such as requesting CareFlight assistance, landing zone setup and communications procedures.

"Our safety depends on you," CareFlight nurse and program educator Marcia Roemer, RN, said to the firefighters during a classroom training.

"Communication is key."

After the training and discussion, the firefighters went outside on airport grounds to implement the lessons.

"It's good to practice what they've learned immediately after," Roemer said, as the firefighters loaded a stretcher onto the helicopter, under both fully stopped and spinning rotors.



Bales said the CareFlight training is just one of several safety courses the fire department regularly completes. Every weekday and on some weekends, the department does some kind of training, including online learning and hands-on practices, he said. The department also participates in a yearly walk-through of the airport's emergency plan and a live simulation of an aircraft accident every three years.

"It's always good to be prepared," he said.

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