

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN HOUSTON AIRPORTS

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The Houston Airport System is comprised of three airports: George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH), William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) and Ellington Airport (EFD). In total, over 60 million domestic and 12 million international passengers travel through (IAH & HOU airports) every year. Ellington Airport is a multi-use airport with partnerships with the US Air Force Reserve, US Coast Guard, NASA and general aviation tenants. With so many passengers traveling through the Houston Airport System daily, the Office of Emergency Management is a critical piece in maintaining the safety and preparedness of the airports in the event of a major catastrophic disaster.

Each airport within the Houston Airport System, works closely with local and federal law enforcement agencies, local emergency management offices, fire departments along with airlines and airport stakeholders and partners to maintain a constant state of preparedness. Through continuous training and exercising of emergency response plans, the airports become proficient in working through multiple scenario base incidents that could cause major disruptions with multiple casualties and fatalities of its passengers and employees throughout the entire Houston Airport System.

The airports need to work with their community partners in preparing for a disaster in addition to responding to one as well. Airports are unique cities within cities that have major obstacles with multiple challenges. By coordinating training, and drills with our community partners, we develop a symbiotic relationship where we know the strengths and weakness of our partners and can work together under a unified command.

The Houston Airport System Office of Emergency Management is constantly keeping the airport ready and prepared to respond to any disaster either man-made or natural that might occur. This presentation will give the audience an opportunity to see what the airports do in being prepared, how they work with their partners and what tools are needed to manage a disaster.