



# Durango-La Plata County Airport Newsletter – Spring 2017

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## Emergency Preparedness

All holders of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) class one Part 139 airport operating certificates are required to hold a full-scale airport emergency plan exercise at least once every 36 consecutive calendar months. Additionally, each certificate holder must review its emergency plan with all parties holding responsibility under the plan at least once every 12 consecutive calendar months.



In fulfilling the annual review requirement, the Durango-La Plata County Airport (DRO) held a tabletop exercise that simulated a multi-causality incident involving an aircraft accident on April 19, 2017. Involved parties included the City of Durango Office of Emergency Management, La Plata County Office of Emergency Management, La Plata County Sheriff, Durango Fire Protection

District, Durango La Plata Emergency Communications Center, American Airlines, United Airlines, Avflight, and the Transportation Security Administration.

The Durango-La Plata County Airport and its mutual aid partners take emergency preparedness extremely seriously, and each exercise that is held results in improvements to the airport's plans and procedures. While we hope that these plans are never required outside of training, we are confident should they need to be put into action.

A full-scale airport emergency plan exercise will be held in April of 2018.

## Wi-Fi

Wireless internet service in the airport terminal has been upgraded! Starting June 12<sup>th</sup>, an improved FREE Wi-Fi product is being offered.





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City of Durango Information Systems staff assisted the airport by installing new wireless hardware that has resulted in improved Wi-Fi access throughout the terminal building. Passengers should experience a fast and reliable Wi-Fi connection while they are checking in for flights, researching ground transportation options, or simply surfing the internet while waiting for a departing flight.

This upgraded service is still being provided to passengers at DRO completely free of cost. Simply search for “DRO\_WiFi” on your wireless device to connect.

## Flight Giveaway

The Durango-La Plata County Airport marked the return of seasonal nonstop Saturday service to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on American Airlines by giving away a free weekend trip for two to Los Angeles.

Airport staff were at the Durango Welcome Center on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> to accept entries into a free drawing for this exciting prize. The Grand Prize package included round-trip airfare for two, one hotel room for three nights, and \$200 for baggage fees and ground transportation expenses.



The lucky winner of this trip was Jack Turner. Jack plans to visit LA in early July and he is excited to get away on a fun vacation.



Seasonal Los Angeles flights will run each Saturday beginning June 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup>, providing passengers with direct access to Southern California, as well as improved connections up and down the west coast and to Hawaii, Asia, and Australia.



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In addition to seasonal nonstop Los Angeles service, American Airlines continues to operate daily departures to both Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) on a year-round basis. Each of these destinations offer hundreds of connections both domestically and internationally.



## Vehicle Parking

If you have spent much time navigating the vehicle parking lots at DRO, you have surely noticed that a large portion of our credit card parking lot is unpaved, with a rotomill surface. During much of the year, and especially during the holidays and the busy summer season, these unpaved spaces are heavily utilized.



As part of a series of ongoing interim terminal improvement projects, the airport is currently finalizing plans to pave approximately 50 additional spaces in the credit card lot. These spaces will be available to passengers year round and will improve the daily customer service experience at DRO.

## Flight For Life

Founded by St. Anthony Hospital in 1972 with a single Alouette III helicopter, Flight For Life was the first hospital-based air ambulance program in the United States and has served as the model for more than 300 flight programs worldwide. It has grown to be a regional air medical and critical care transport program responding to nine states in the Rocky Mountain region.

Flight For Life operates out of Denver, Frisco, Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Durango to transport patients to the most appropriate hospital, operating within the Colorado trauma system rules for trauma patients. Their transport



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capabilities include the specialty areas of neonatal, high-risk obstetrical, intra-aortic balloon pump and mountain rescue transports.



The Durango-La Plata County Airport is proud to have Flight For Life based on our airfield. The critical service that they provide to our community is invaluable, and while none of us hope to be in the position of needing air medical transport, it is reassuring to know that we have this resource available locally.