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PRESS RELEASE

“Salvation 2013” emergency exercise is successfully completed at Pafos International Airport

A major emergency exercise codenamed “Salvation 2013” has been successfully carried out at Pafos International Airport. The exercise lasted for approximately two hours and involved various government and non-governmental departments and services based both within and outside Pafos Airport.

According to the exercise scenario, twenty minutes before landing, a commercial aircraft carrying 40 passengers and a crew of six emits a distress signal due to the loss of one of its two engines. During the landing process, the aircraft crashes and ends up outside the runway. The aircraft’s tail and left wing, including the engine, are severed leading to the crash with loss of life and injuries. At the same time there is a fuel leak with a risk of fire.

As a result of the emergency, all the services involved within and outside the airport, together with the various rescue teams, were summoned to immediately deal with the incident. For Pafos Airport, the object of the exercise was to determine the readiness of all the relevant services and the level of coordination among them when faced with a major emergency.

Hermes wishes to express its satisfaction with the final result of the exercise. Valuable conclusions have been drawn and these will be evaluated and implemented appropriately, with the aim of improving the level of rapid response and the overall efficiency of the various services.

The organisation and coordination of the exercise was undertaken by the Operations Centre of Hermes with the support of the Department of Civil Aviation and the cooperation of various government and non-governmental departments and services. The exercise was observed by high-ranking officials and the heads of various services and organisations based in Cyprus and abroad who are involved in airport operations and crisis management.