



# LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Media Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Monday, May 8, 2017

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## **NOAA Hurricane Hunter Hangar to be Filled with Foam for Required Fire Suppression System Testing**

Lakeland, FL – On Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 9:00 AM, foam fire suppression systems will be tested at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport for the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) hurricane hunter hangar. The foam test is unique in that it is the first suppression system acceptance test of its kind in Lakeland; with the entire hangar being filled with fire suppression foam. This kind of testing is required due to the nature of the hangar, that will hold fully fueled aircraft.

The test is anticipated to last approximately three minutes and will be a great visual example of fire safety systems at work. High expansion foam is a fire suppressant that fills a space to help suppress fires that could occur from flammable liquids storage. The test is required by fire code prior to the occupancy of the tenant. The Lakeland Fire Department's (LFD) Fire Inspector/Investigator John McGrath will be overseeing the required testing, per NFPA 409 regulations. Fire Inspector McGrath has been overseeing the fire and life safety aspects of the NOAA hangar project since its inception and will be on hand, on behalf of the department, to answer the media's questions in regards to what the test is, how it works, why it is required by fire code.

The test will take place at the NOAA Hangar at Lakeland Linder Regional Airport located at Flightline Drive, Lakeland, FL 33811. The event is open to the media only.

The Lakeland Fire Department can be contacted for any questions in regards to the fire suppression system test. NOAA and Lakeland Linder Regional Airport officials will be on hand to answer inquiries related to the other aspects of the project.

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Gary Ballard, Fire Chief

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