



## **Media Advisory – Feb. 12, 2010**

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### **DEM, Paine Field ready to assist in national disasters**

Snohomish County's Paine Field and Department of Emergency Management have been federally certified to assist with response and recovery during national and international disasters.

The county airport and emergency management staff are one of only a handful of local government agencies with the designation. The two have demonstrated their ability to help medical evacuees and would work in conjunction with other airports and military bases during an event.

The additional training will serve Snohomish County residents, also, should a disaster occur here.

“Snohomish County stands ready to assist our national and international neighbors in the event of a disaster,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “This also means we’re better prepared to help our own residents should some calamity occur.”

Certification began about eight months ago. Both airport and DEM staff had to demonstrate their ability to respond to a national disaster in other locations during three different mock drills.

Drills revolved around helping evacuate victims during a national or international disaster to a safer location for medical triage and treatment.

“With the Olympics starting today in neighboring Vancouver, it does not hurt to be better prepared,” said John Pennington, DEM director.

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