

February 6, 2015



Dear Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport travellers and neighbours,

In light of an unfortunate attempt made yesterday by an unqualified critic and known detractor of Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to use an outdated, 22-year-old document and inaccurate information to call into question the current emergency preparedness of our airport, I'd like to take this opportunity to share some information with you about the extensive safety and security protocols and procedures we have in place.

Ensuring the safety and security of those at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport, and in the surrounding community, is always a top priority for PortsToronto, owner and operator of the airport. While we do not share the details of our emergency response plan for security reasons, I would like to assure you that all of our emergency prevention and response protocols and procedures at our airport meet or exceed Transport Canada regulatory requirements. Here are some of the ways we ensure our airport maintains the highest level of safety for our travellers.

First, we have a fully functioning, on-island fire hall and emergency response centre, over and above the Toronto Fire Service, staffed by more than double the number of emergency personnel required by Transport Canada, with state-of-the-art equipment and vehicles which have been upgraded and expanded over the past few years, including new firefighting trucks, a mid-size pumper and a Fire Command vehicle.

The airport's fire department does regular internal and external emergency services training throughout the year, in addition to a full-scale simulation every two years, with a full simulation table-top exercise in intervening years. These exercises test our airport's protocols, procedures, communications and planning for emergency and security-related incidents, and ensure that our airport is ready to respond to any situation. All of our emergency response partners, including Toronto Fire, Toronto Police Services and Toronto EMS, as well as staff and officials from the various security agencies and airlines that operate out of the airport, participate in the training to ensure a fully coordinated response to any situation.

Given the airport's proximity to the water, the Billy Bishop Airport Fire Department, Toronto Fire Services Squad and the Toronto Police Services Marine Unit also go above and beyond the safety measures required of us by holding joint ice and cold water rescue training to practice water-specific rescue operations. During this training, specialized safety equipment is utilized and trained with to ensure we are ready to respond in any situation. You may have seen photographs in the media of last year's successful joint exercise.

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In addition to having an emergency response centre and full crew at the airport, Toronto's emergency responders have the ability to access our airport within minutes by water, through the Toronto Marine Units, and by our ferry, which would be made solely available to emergency response vehicles in the event of an emergency. Our ferry service has also been enhanced with two new ferries being brought into service. This includes the airport's main ferry, the *Marilyn Bell*, which came into service in 2009 and can carry up to 200 passengers, crew and up to 15 vehicles at one time. An additional fire hall, police station and paramedic unit are also located within one kilometre of our airport. Toronto Police Service have also acquired a special ice boat to quickly access the airport and harbour areas during the winter months, if required. Ornge paramedics and helicopters are also permanently based at the airport and provide yet an additional level of expertise and equipment, should the need arise. The opening of the new tunnel later this year will provide further dedicated access to the airport and could be utilized during emergency situations.

All of these measures are part of the extensive emergency response plan we have in place to ensure we are prepared to respond in a rapid and coordinated manner in the unlikely event of an emergency at our airport. Ensuring the safety and security of our travellers and neighbouring community are top priorities for PortsToronto. I would encourage you to visit our website by clicking [here](#) for more information on this subject. On this page you will also learn about some of the recent enhancements to our emergency systems and see images from our November 2014 full-scale simulation that involved more than 100 professionals from all areas of emergency services to test and ensure a coordinated and highly effective response in the unlikely case of an emergency at the airport.

I hope that this letter and the information on our website will provide much-needed context and assurances of the steps we take at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to ensure the safety and security of all who travel to and from, or live in close proximity to, the airport.

Sincerely,



Gene Cabral
Executive Vice President
PortsToronto and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport