

Sun Herald
Fri 9/28/79
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WPFD Studies Aircraft Emergency Course

Members of the Winter Park Fire Department were given special training on aircraft emergencies by Orange-Orlando Fire Training Academy instructor David Alexander, last week.

"The main reason we train our people in work on a crash, either in the city or on the mutual aid plan, is that our people need to know what to expect," Chief Sid Ballou said.

Lectures, films and diagrams show and tell the men how to handle a downed plane in the city, people to contact, how to locate things in the plane (flight recorder, etc.), set up communications with hospitals and other emergency services, how to route patients, the best places to enter a plane and places to

avoid (high voltage, etc.)

As you know, flight paths from both Herndon and McCoy International airports are over Winter Park. The air corridor is 20 miles out, in all directions, Alexander said.

Speaking of the course, he added: "The number one priority is rescue and body management rather than the fire." He says in a 400-passenger plane crash 25 percent of the people will be dead, 25 percent seriously wounded, 25 percent will have minor cuts and abrasions, and 25 percent will be able to walk away from the crash.

It is hoped this training will not be needed but, if it is, members of the WPFD will be ready for it.