

**Press Release**

**Date: May 9, 2025**

**Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport to Host Live Fire Training Exercise**

On **Monday, May 12th, and Tuesday, May 13th**, the **Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport ARFF (Airport Rescue Firefighters)** will be conducting "Live Fire Training" exercises. While the current wildland fire danger is rated as "High," this essential training will be carried out in a highly controlled and safe environment on the airport's commercial apron.

This "Hot Drill" training is an annual requirement set by the FAA to ensure readiness and safety in aviation emergencies. As part of the program, firefighters will engage in classroom sessions and updates, followed by practical exercises in hand line firefighting and airport fire truck operations. Using specialized propane-fueled equipment, the training will simulate aircraft and large jet fuel fires.

Participants include firefighters from:

- Delta County Airport
- Houghton County Airport
- Ford Airport
- Ironwood Airport
- Chippewa County Airport

Additionally, on the evening of Monday, May 12th, members from the following local units will join the training:

- Forsyth Township Fire Department
- Sands Fire Department
- Skandia-West Branch Fire Department
- Tri-Township Fire Department
- Marquette County Sheriff's Office Technical Rescue Unit 131

The training will be led by Instructor Louis Kurtz, an ARFF Specialist from Duluth, Minnesota.

Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport (MSRA) is proud to partner with other Upper Peninsula airports and local response agencies to ensure this training remains the most relevant and effective in maintaining the highest level of safety for our traveling guests. We emphasize that aviation remains one of the safest modes of transportation, and continuous training like this ensures our local emergency responders are prepared.

MSRA ARFF

Chief Joseph Perry

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