

*April 25, 2023***NEWS RELEASE***Media Contact: Karen Martsolf, MA
Chief Marketing/Communications Officer
(970) 644-3490 (o)
(970) 778-1249 (c)
kmartsolf@gjhosp.org***Community Hospital to Participate in Grand Junction Regional Airport
Mass Casualty Incident Exercise**

Mesa County, CO - Community Hospital will participate in the Grand Junction Regional Airport full-scale emergency preparedness exercise on **Tuesday, May 2, 2023**, from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Mock patients will be transported to the Community Hospital emergency department in partnership with the Colorado Mesa University emergency medical technician (EMT) program using their training ambulance. Community Hospital is located at 2351 G Road, just west of Canyon View Park. The exercise will begin promptly at 9:00am with a mock call from Grand Junction Regional Airport prefacing "THIS IS A DRILL".

The mass casualty exercise is a full-scale, functional exercise, designed, in part, to test medical surgical capabilities at area hospitals. "These types of emergency preparedness drills are designed to establish a safe learning environment for participants to exercise emergency response plans, policies, and procedures," said Joe Gerardi, Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nursing Officer for Community Hospital. "This particular exercise will test our emergency department triage capabilities as they pertain to a mass casualty incident following a mock plane crash at the Grand Junction Regional Airport," added Gerardi.

The main areas of focus for this exercise will include testing the ability to successfully manage a patient surge in the emergency department as well as managing internal and external communications. As part of the exercise, Community Hospital will stand up the Incident Command Center, ensure participation of key departments including the emergency department, surgery, imaging, respiratory therapy and more. The mass casualty tent will also be set up outside the emergency department for this exercise.

Members of the media are welcome and encouraged to cover this full-scale training exercise in collaboration with the Grand Junction Regional Airport.

For more information on Community Hospital's participation in the Grand Junction Regional Airport full-scale mass casualty incident exercise, please contact Karen Martsolf, Chief Marketing/Communications Officer at 970-778-1249. For more information on the programs and services provided at Community Hospital, please visit YourCommunityHospital.com.

###