

Plane diverts to Mt. Vernon for deicing

A plane touched down Friday morning at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport due to ice

BY EMILY ROTH

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MT. VERNON — An airplane on its way to Indiana was forced to make an emergency landing at the Mt. Vernon Outland Airport on Friday in order to deice the wings and continue on its journey.

The Bombardier Challenger 300 business jet was en route from St. Louis to South Bend, Ind. when it landed at the airport and a crew of four helped prepare it for take-off.

“The airplane landed at approximately 7:45 a.m. and we were on it around 8 [a.m.],”

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Submitted Photo

PLANE PREP — Mt. Vernon Airport Authority maintenance assistant Larry Hughes, in the bucket, sprays a plane with deicing fluid on Friday. Authority maintenance Superintendent Ron Mosier was behind the wheel of the truck. Also assisting was SRT Aviation Line Service Manager Ken Kline and SRT Lineman Trent Flota. 2-16-16

Plane:

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informed Airport Director Chris Collins. “They picked up passengers and they had accumulated what’s called rime ice, which is a real thin layer of ice on the edges of the wings and tail. They picked that up descending down to come in to land. The aircraft has to be cleaned before it can take back off. Any amount of ice, even light ice disrupts the air flow over the wing and tail control surfaces.”

Rime ice is ice that forms when the water droplets in fog freeze to the outer surfaces of objects.

Collins continued, “We had converted an old bucket truck that we have in the maintenance department that we use around the airport for changing light bulbs or anytime we’ve got to get up high. ... The product comes in a 265 gallon tote basically of a forklift and we forklifted it into the bed of the bucket truck. So there’s processed piping that runs between each end of the truck and then a spray wand up in the boom. So this was our first opportunity to use this machine on Friday morning.”

The deicing took place on the main aircraft ramp in front of the fixed based operations (FBO) hangar, and according to Collins, did not interfere with the preparation of the weekend home show.

“There were seven of us that took the National Airline Transportation Association training class,” said Collins. “We had to do that online, that was about an hour long training class online. ... Airports have to have training to do deicing. We didn’t just do it, we actually called around and asked ‘what are the steps that we have to do this?’ We’re thinking that we may see five to 10 additional airplanes during the winter because we have this technology.”

According to Collins, purchasing the deicing equipment was a five-year process.

“There was just a lot of research and a lot of money that went into it,” stated Collins.

Snow removal equipment is also available at the airport to ensure that the runway is clear during winter conditions.

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