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## General Aviation Security

The Colorado Airport Operators Association (CAOA) recently held its spring conference in Pueblo, Colorado. A representative from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Transportation Security Administration, (TSA) from Washington, DC, who specializes in general aviation security issues, made a presentation concerning the future of security for general aviation. It was reported by the TSA representative that DHS is actively working on proposed legislation concerning general aviation. When queried

about the types of restrictions they are considering placing on airports and aircraft operators, the answer was not surprisingly a bit vague. It was noted that most of the consideration for security enhancements would be placed on aircraft operators. It is difficult however to imagine some of the requirements they are likely considering for aircraft operators not having a direct impact on the airports also.

The National Business Aviation Association in recent weeks has reported the same, with the DHS releasing proposed regulations as early as this summer. NBAA is reporting that the rules are expected to be tailored to the specific needs of the GA community, and could include the requirement for criminal history background checks and passenger manifest requirements for certain types of GA flights. A final decision on the proposed rules would not be expected before a lengthy feedback period.

## Pavement Maintenance Project

The 2007 pavement maintenance projects were in full swing during the months of May and June. The Airport Authority took delivery of its new crack sealing machine in mid May, and has now crack sealed many areas of the airfield, including both runways and all of the taxiways. This work was critical to complete before the seal coating project which began on June 11<sup>th</sup>, which took two weeks to finish. Runway 16/34, Taxiway C, and all of the C connectors received a seal coat, and were then re-stripped. Additionally, the terminal building apron and parking lot were seal coated and re-stripped as well. Several tenant leasehold areas were also seal coated, with those tenants paying the cost for their respective areas. A moderate amount of inconvenience existed during the terminal apron and parking lot work, and the Airport Authority thanks everyone for their patience and cooperation while this work took place. The result is the completion of an important preventive maintenance project which will add years to the service life of these pavements, and greatly reduce the long-term maintenance costs to the Airport Authority and tenants. Additional crack sealing throughout many of the hangar areas is scheduled to take place before the end of summer.

## Hangar Inspection Update

Airport staff spent a considerable amount of time during the months of April and May conducting detailed inspections of all Airport Authority owned T-hangars for maintenance deficiencies. As these inspections were being performed, detailed records were being kept as to each and every maintenance need that was identified. Any item which was discovered which required immediate attention, was repaired right away by our maintenance staff. Since the inspections were completed, a database of all maintenance needs discovered has been produced. Each T-hangar tenant, with their July statements, should receive a form which lists each of the maintenance needs which were recorded for their T-hangar unit. Airport Authority staff are now working on prioritizing these items, and will produce a work plan to try and address as many of these as possible. If you are aware of any maintenance need in a T-hangar which is not on the list which is sent out in July, please contact Kevin Freiberg at 336-3002.

## MARE '07 (Major Accident Response Exercise)

The Greeley-Weld County Airport, with assistance from numerous outside emergency service agencies, conducted a mass casualty exercise on the airport on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The scenario simulated the crash of a narrow bodied MD-80 series aircraft, with over 100 persons on-board. Volunteer victims accounted for over 80 persons, and including emergency responders, well over 200 people participated in the exercise, including firefighters, paramedics, and other responders from departments representing Greeley, Evans, Kersey, Eaton, Weld County, Larimer County, the Colorado Air National Guard, and others.

The purpose of the exercise was to simulate a large scale mass casualty incident, and utilize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to manage and oversee firefighting, rescue, medical, and recovery operations. Buses were used to simulate the intact portions of an aircraft fuselage, and numerous victims were staged inside who had to be rescued. An aircraft fuselage provided by Andersen's Sales and Salvage was used, and smoke bombs set off in and around it provided a realistic scene at which firefighting operations were conducted.

The exercise was the largest ever undertaken by the Greeley-Weld County Airport, and it was also the largest such exercise in Weld County in over 10 years. Lessons learned from the exercise will be used to improve the manner in which all agencies respond to and work together in such an incident.



Airport personnel trained as aircraft rescue firefighters work with Union Colony Fire Rescue firefighters to attack the exterior and interior fires on the simulated crashed aircraft.

Platte Valley Fire and Colorado Air National Guard personnel move a victim from the scene of the simulated crash.



Simulated victims wait to be transported to hospitals after being triaged and decontaminated at the crash scene.

## Terminal Roof Re-finishing

You may have noticed as of late that the terminal roof is losing its blue... literally. Airport staff noticed early in 2006 that small spots of the blue finish on the terminal building roof were flaking off, exposing the bare metal beneath the finish. After many months of working with the contractor who installed the roof, and the manufacturer of the roof, it was determined that spot repairs would be conducted by the manufacturer under full warranty. However, by the time this determination had been made, it was too late in the year to undertake the work, and it was postponed until the summer of 2007. During the winter of 2006/2007, much more of the color began coming off the roof, which is fairly apparent when you look at it from an angle from the south side.

Airport staff has since re-negotiated the warranty repairs needed, and the manufacturer has agreed to re-finish the entire terminal building roof under warranty. (After all, the roof is only seven years old, and has a twenty year warranty on it). A contractor began working on the roof refinishing project on June 30<sup>th</sup>. All of the existing blue is being stripped off using high pressure water with sand, followed by a new primer coat. Three coats of aircraft quality blue will then be applied. When complete, the manufacturer is indicating that the blue finish will be thicker and more durable than the original manufactured finish.

As is typical however, some minor inconvenience comes with this project. Contractor vehicles and trailers are presently taking up space in and around the terminal parking lot, and there is some noise inside the building while the work is being performed. We expect this project to take about two weeks, give or take a few days.

## Customer Support Addition

The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority and Peak Flight Support have agreed to jointly fund a dedicated customer service agent position at the front counter in the terminal lobby. Three employees have been hired to fill the hours of 8 AM to 5 PM seven days a week. The customer service agents will be dedicated to working the front counter, answering incoming calls for both the FBO and the Airport Authority, dispatching fuel and other aircraft service orders, monitoring and operating the Unicom station, and performing a variety of other customer service and clerical functions for both entities. The primary goal is to have a dedicated representative of the FBO and the airport at the front counter on a consistent basis. The three new employees started work on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Stop in and say hello when you can.

## Economic Gardening Opportunities for Airport Businesses

The term Economic Gardening means growing our economy from within. It works by finding new sales opportunities for existing businesses, and expanding upon existing ones through free or low cost information. The City of Greeley initiated an Economic Gardening program in the past year, and given that the airport is now located entirely within the City of Greeley, airport businesses have the ability to take advantage of this free service. Meetings with City representatives concerning this program provided some surprising and encouraging insight into how this service can assist existing airport businesses in the growth of their sales.

Some of the tools available to airport businesses through this service include:

- Precision marketing
- Competitive intelligence
- Strategy development
- Custom business research
- Customer mapping and analysis
- Demographic information

Airport businesses are invited to attend a demonstration of these services at 8 A.M. on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, at the Greeley Chamber of Commerce offices, located in the Union Pacific Railroad Depot building, at 902 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. in downtown Greeley. For additional information on this **free** service, contact Kelly Peters, Economic Development Manager for the City of Greeley, at (970) 350-9876.

## ID Badge Re-Issuance

Airport Authority issued ID badges for employees of commercial businesses on the airport are scheduled to expire on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The Authority will be re-issuing ID badges to all such individuals likely beginning in the September timeframe. Newly hired employees in the interim should still have a current ID card issued by the Authority. Businesses will be contacted when the Authority is ready to begin issuing new badges to their employees.

## Fly Friendly...

On occasion, we like to remind pilots to use courtesy when flying over and around our community. It helps to ensure minimal impacts from noise, and allows the airport and the pilot community to retain a good relationship with the residents of our area. As of late, complaints from residents within the community about low flying aircraft over residential areas have been received by the airport. These seem to be focused in the area west of 35<sup>th</sup> Ave., and south of 20<sup>th</sup> Street. We ask all pilots to please use courtesy when flying over residential areas, especially those identified above.

Please also remember that a voluntary avoid overflight procedure exists for the Colorado Air National Guard Base at the airport. Aircraft on the downwind leg for Runway 34, should remain west of the Guard base, and not turn base until south of SH 263. Aircraft departing Runway 27 should not turn south until after passing the departure end of the runway.

With the assistance of all area pilots, we can ensure that the Greeley-Weld County Airport remains one of the more friendly airports for both pilots and area residents.

## Storm Water Project Update

The Airport Authority has contracted for the design engineering of improvements to the storm water detention pond located near the airport entrance between Airport Road and Crosier Ave. Conceptual drawings are now complete, and are being reviewed by the City of Greeley for compliance with the City's requirements. Minimal construction is scheduled for this year, with most of the earthwork taking place in 2008. This project is required to meet the City of Greeley storm water standards, and is necessary as a condition of the inter-governmental agreement between the City and the Airport Authority.

## Credit Cards Make It Easy

More and more tenants and customers are now using their credit cards to make their monthly hangar rental payments to the airport. Besides eliminating the need to mail in a check each month, the points and benefits of most credit cards make it worthwhile to use for monthly rent payments. If you would like to begin making your payments by credit card, contact Mandy Oliva at 336-3003 during normal business hours.

## In Memory

The tragic accident that occurred at the Greeley-Weld County Airport on June 25<sup>th</sup>, took the lives of two individuals well known in the region by homebuilt associations, and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association. Both individuals had recently performed as announcers at the Rocky Mountain Fly-In.

Our deepest sympathies and thoughts are with the families of both.

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