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Airport Staff Complete Life Saving Recertification

All members of the Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority staff recently completed bi-annual recertification in Basic Life Saving (BLS) skills. Included in this recertification program are CPR, use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED's), and

more. The training was carried out by instructors from the Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority, and the Weld County Paramedic Service. All airport staff have been trained in basic lifesaving skills in the past, and the Airport Authority began updating these skills and certifications several years ago as part of our Aircraft Rescue Firefighting program, and extending it to all Authority employees. This training provides employees with the skills needed to deal with many of the injuries that are typically encountered by victims of an aircraft accident, and is an extension of the basic and on-going aircraft rescue training which our employees undertake annually.

Also of importance, is for tenants to be aware of the fact that Airport Authority employees have this training, in the unlikely event that a person at their location may suffer some form of medical emergency which requires immediate attention until paramedics arrive. In addition to being equipped with a first responder emergency medical kit, Airport Authority employees also have at their disposal, an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), which each is trained to use, and which remains at the airport at all times. While a medical emergency at your individual location should always result in you calling 911 first, if the emergency occurs when airport staff are present on the airport, calling the Airport Authority offices, or the Peak Flight Support desk, will trigger a response from airport staff as well. Airport staff when present on the airport, can typically be at your location with the proper equipment to begin treatment quickly, while waiting for the Fire Department and Paramedics arrive.

Airport Authority Receives Fire Department Award

The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority was recently recognized by the Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority with an award for Outstanding Training and Support, at the Fire Authority's recent annual awards ceremony. The award was presented to the Airport Authority for the work it carries out annually to support the training of Union Colony Fire Rescue Authority firefighters, in aircraft rescue firefighting, airport familiarization, aircraft familiarization and rescue techniques, and other areas. The support and training provided to the Fire Authority by the Airport Authority is intended to ensure a higher level of familiarization and confidence in all area firefighters, in those situations which require their response to the airport for a variety of emergency events.

In addition to those areas already mentioned, the Airport Authority in 2003 was responsible for training and certification of two Union Colony firefighters as FAA aircraft rescue firefighters. These two individuals now serve as liaisons with the Airport Authority, and utilize this knowledge to train other firefighters annually in aircraft related emergency response situations. The Airport Authority also ensures that both of these firefighters remain fully current as aircraft rescue firefighters, by sending them to annual re-certification live burn training each year at Denver International Airport. The Fire Authority, in return, provides a variety of support activities back to the airport, including mutual aid support during emergencies, equipment upgrades and maintenance, training for Airport Authority employees, and much more. The relationship between the two agencies has grown into one of mutual support, which benefits both agencies on a routine basis. The Airport Authority presently operates two aircraft rescue vehicles, and has four employees who are fully FAA certified aircraft rescue firefighters.

FAA Releases User Fee Proposal

As promised, the FAA recently released its 2008 budget proposal, which is based upon the most significant change in the collection of aviation system revenues in its history. Depending upon which side of the fence you stand however, it is either a long awaited improvement to way the U.S. aviation system is funded, or it just plain stinks. If you are a large general aviation airport, such as GXY, it is bit of both.

The changes were predicated on the belief that the FAA needs to generate more revenue to update and modernize the U.S. Air Traffic Control System. While there may be no debating this, it has been the lobbying efforts of the major U.S. airlines which lead to the FAA's decision to attempt to make the change to a user fee based system. Many airlines, which continue to struggle financially, are trying to cut billions of dollars from their annual operating expenses, and shift them to general aviation.

Under the FAA's proposal, the largest commercial airports in the U.S. would actually receive less FAA funding for airport improvement projects, but would be able to make it up by being able to institute an increase to the cap on existing passenger facility charges on those passengers traveling through their airports. The smallest general aviation airports would stand to lose FAA funding, and would be required to fight harder to maintain what they have. Large general aviation airports, such as GXY, actually stand to greatly benefit from the current proposal, at least in terms of FAA funding. GXY's current annual FAA entitlement funds would increase from the current \$150,000 per year, to \$400,000 per year. Additionally, projects which previously were not eligible for use of these funds, such as hangar development projects, would become eligible, having a direct benefit for the airport as well. That's the good.

The bad and the ugly exist for GXY as well in this proposal. To start, turbine powered aircraft would begin paying a user fee to the FAA for each flight. How much this would be, and how the FAA would collect this, is still an industry mystery however. Non turbine general aviation aircraft would still pay a federal excise tax on aviation gasoline. This tax which is currently 19.4 cents per gallon, is proposed to increase to 70 cents per gallon. Whether the FAA included the probable decrease in fuel flowage as a result of this increase in their revenue projections is also an unknown. General aviation businesses and users obviously have serious concerns about a decline in general aviation flying as a result of this 260 percent increase proposal.

The new democratic leadership in Washington, D.C. has already gone on record as not being a big fan of this proposal. It has also been widely publicized that it is hard to believe that the FAA made this proposal, with the expectation that it would pass. The suggestion is that a lesser user fee increase compromise would give the general aviation industry the feeling of victory over the FAA, while the FAA still got what it really wanted.

It is important that the general aviation industry, including individual pilots, use the legislative process to let their congressional delegates know how they feel about this issue. There is a lot of truth in the term *"the squeaky wheel gets the grease"*, especially back in Washington. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) at www.aopa.org, and the National Business Aviation Association at www.nbaa.org, have both set up sample letters and step by step processes intended to help any person send a letter to their legislator. By visiting these web sites, you can download a sample letter, figure out who your legislator is, and where to send the letter to them.

Annual Storm Water & Spill Prevention Training

The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority holds an annual training class in storm water pollution prevention and spill control and countermeasures for airport tenants. For commercial and corporate tenants based on the airport, the annual training class is mandatory, as part of the airport's obligation to the State of Colorado under its Storm Water Discharge Permit, as well as the inter-governmental agreement with the City of Greeley, as a condition of the exemption of storm water utility fees. While other tenants are not mandated to attend the training, we strongly encourage all tenants to attend the class, and learn of the importance of maintaining the quality of the storm water discharged from the airport property, and how to take adequate measures to protect the environment from an accidental fuel, oil, or chemical spill. Dates and times for training will be announced in the next few weeks. Tenants required to attend will be contacted for a suitable training schedule. Others that wish to attend the class, which typically takes about 60-90 minutes, can contact Kevin Freiberg, at (970) 336-3002 during normal business hours.

TSA Visits GXY

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recently visited with tenants of the Greeley-Weld County Airport, and the Airport Authority. TSA agents are keeping a closer eye on GA activities, particularly flight schools and flight instructors. The TSA is now discussing security issues with airports, flight schools, and instructors annually. One of the goals of the TSA is a heightened level of awareness of general aviation security threats. There is still discussion, and the general consensus by the TSA, that mandated security requirements for general aviation airports and aircraft operations are inevitable. The steps that many GA airports have taken show a pro-active approach for GA to police itself, and it is expected that these steps will ultimately result in a more palatable set of regulations for general aviation in the future.

Airfield & Hangar Area Closures

We have previously reported on the 2007 airfield maintenance projects which are presently being scheduled. Of significant importance, is the pavement maintenance fog seal project. This project is intended to see the application of a seal coat on all runway and taxiway surfaces and the terminal apron early this summer. Depending upon contract costs, airport roadways may also be seal coated as well. This project will seal the surface of the asphalt surfaces, protecting it from moisture and harmful UV rays, extending the life of the pavement.

Unfortunately, this project cannot be carried out without significant inconveniences due to airfield closures. Additionally, certain phases of the project cannot be carried out without shutting down all access to associated hangar areas for several days at a time. A phasing plan for the project was recently worked out, which will ensure that one runway is always open. However, at different times, for several days each, access to the west and east hangar areas will be completely shut down, while taxiways which provide access to those areas get their seal coat application, and subsequent re-striping.

At the present time, airport staff anticipates that this work will take place during the month of June, but an actual schedule has not yet been established. All tenants will be given plenty of advanced warning before these closures occur. Any tenant who must fly during the scheduled closure dates should find an alternate location to store their aircraft for those days elsewhere on the airport. As we draw closer to the start of this project, more information will be transmitted to tenants via email, monthly statements, and through postings in the terminal building. Please call us during normal business hours at (970) 336-3000 with any questions.

Parking Restrictions Take Effect

The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority has undertaken new restrictions on the parking of automobiles on the airport property and in the terminal building parking lot. These restrictions have become necessary due to increasing problems with vehicles which are not related to any tenant, customer, or employee on the airport, being left on the property for extended, or permanent periods. More and more frequently, vehicles are being left in the terminal building parking lot by individuals that simply do not have anywhere else to park them. Given the limited number of parking spaces at the terminal, these vehicles unnecessarily take up valuable space in the lot which is reserved for airport tenants, customers, employees, and aircraft passengers. There has also been an increasing level of vehicles being parked on tenant leaseholds for extended periods, where the owner is not an employee, guest, or customer of the tenant, or otherwise does not have permission to leave their vehicle for any extended period of time.

The new restrictions provide that any unauthorized vehicle left on airport property for more than 72 hours will be subject to towing at the vehicle owners expense. Unauthorized vehicles are those not belonging to tenants, their guests, employees or customers, which are left on the property over 72 hours without advanced notification and authorization from the Airport Authority. This rule is not intended to prohibit parking for more than the 3 day period, but simply to provide the Authority with a tool to remove such a vehicle, if determined to have been abandoned, or otherwise left for reasons not related to doing business or conducting normal activities on the airport.

It shall be the practice of airport staff to utilize all efforts to contact the owner of such a vehicle with a request to remove it first, with towing being a last option only.

Hangar Inspection Schedules

T-hangar tenants at the Greeley-Weld County Airport were previously notified of pending maintenance inspections of all T-hangars. The inspection schedules have now been established and are provided below. Airport staff will access each individual unit in each of the T-hangar buildings on the following schedule. If you desire to be present when staff inspects your hangar, please contact Kevin Freiberg at (970) 336-3002, or kfreiberg@gxy.net to schedule an appointment during the week noted. Locks that have been changed without the knowledge of the Airport Authority will be removed during these inspections and replaced with airport locks. The tenant will be responsible for the replacement cost of the lock.

<u>Hangar No.</u>	<u>Inspection Dates</u>
6, 13 and 38	4/2 through 4/6
40, 42, and 44	4/9 through 4/13
46, 48 and 50	4/16 through 4/20
51 and 53	4/23 through 4/27

Stormwater Project Update

The Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority is starting the planning and design for improvements to the storm water detention pond located at the main entrance of the airport between Airport Road and Crosier Ave. This project is required in to meet storm water discharge requirements of both the Federal Aviation Administration and the City of Greeley. The project, which is estimated to cost \$450,000.00 over two years, was part of the agreement between the airport and the City as a condition of avoiding the levying of storm water utility fees upon the tenants of the airport by the City. The 2007 portion of the project, budgeted at \$150,000.00, will include engineering design to enlarge the detention pond, including providing for a new spillway. It will also include design of secondary containment controls in the event of a large scale fuel spill on the airport. Actual construction in 2007 will likely be limited to utility relocations, and some environmental work. The major construction work, costing \$350,000.00, will take place in 2008. The FAA will fund 95 percent of this project through the Airport Improvement Program, with matching funds coming from the Colorado Aeronautical Board and local budgets.

Reminder on Aircraft Maintenance

As warmer temperatures continue, we see more hangar doors open and pilots working on their airplanes getting ready for a more active spring and summer flying season. Airport staff would like to remind everyone that the airport is an EPA permitted industrial waste facility, and is required to follow certain practices.

A variety of best management practices should be followed while working on aircraft. These include disposing of waste oil and fluids properly, promptly cleaning up any spilled fluids, and using bio-degradable detergents when washing aircraft. Aircraft parked outside while being worked on should have drip pans beneath them, and the engines covered while not attended. The objective of this program is to minimize the possibility of any contaminants from entering into the airport's storm water system, and ending up in the nearby rivers. Even a small amount of fluid spilled on the apron ends up in the river after the next rain or snowfall. For the private aircraft owner, the Airport Authority maintains a waste oil storage tank which oil can be dumped into at no charge to tenants. Contact airport administration during normal business hours if you need to use the waste oil tank.

Observing these best management practices continually will help to ensure that the tenants of the airport can avoid the costly storm water utility fees which will have to be paid in the event of a breach of these rules.



Do you have a lot of stuff?

Do you need someplace to put some of that stuff? The Greeley-Weld County Airport has one storage unit for rent at \$55.00 per month. Call Kevin Freiberg at (970) 336-3002, or email at kfreiberg@gxy.net.

Victims Needed... The Greeley-Weld County Airport, along with local emergency service agencies, will conduct a mass casualty training exercise on May 10th. Numerous participants are needed to act as victims. If you are interested in participating, call Mike Reisman at (970) 336-3001.

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