



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

CDA Web Alert

September 9, 2010

CDA hosts Latin American Fire Chiefs at O'Hare International Airport

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) Airport Operations Training Division hosted Fire Chiefs from the Organizacion de Bomberos Americanos (OBA), a non-for profit organization comprised of fire fighting organizations and dignitaries throughout Latin America.

The CFD Airport operations District Chief Timothy Sampey provided an overview of the division's strategy, tactics and resources. The Fire Chiefs participated in a live fire demonstration at O'Hare International Airport's Regional Training that included live fire training evolutions.

The CFD began operations at the Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) training facility "Burn Pit" in 1996. The facility has been widely used to train the O'Hare and Midway-based firefighters and the surrounding Mutual Aide Box Alarm (MABAS) members to be able to respond and extinguish an aircraft fire. The system was upgraded in 2008 to achieve a more realistic training facility and designed a water-based system.

The participating Fire Chiefs came from Argentina; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Ecuador; Martinique; Mexico; Paraguay and Uruguay. The group is in Chicago for its semi-annual conference. For more information about the OBA, please visit www.organizacionbomberosamericanos.org

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportsgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

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