



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

# CDA Web Alert

March 12, 2010

## **Chicago Department of Aviation Hosts multi-agency training exercise**

Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino hosted the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) for the annual ATF Certified Fire Investigator re-certification.

This ATF training was held in the now-vacant area of the Village of Bensenville that was acquired by the City of Chicago for the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). The OEMC coordinated with the CDA, the ATF, the Chicago Police Department (CPD), the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) the Village of Bensenville, Bensenville Police and Bensenville Fire Protection District, as well as numerous city, county, state, federal and assist agencies.

"The southwest acquisition area has proven to be a once in a lifetime opportunity to provide enhanced training for law enforcement agencies and emergency responders," Andolino said. The tremendous success of the exercises in this area would not have been possible without the vision of Mayor Richard M. Daley, who recognized the great potential this setting would provide. The Mayor encouraged us to work collaboratively with the Village of Bensenville and Mayor Frank Soto to turn this area into a training ground for emergency response units."

CPD Superintendent Jody P. Weis, OEMC Acting Executive Director Jose Santiago, ATF Assistant Special Agent in Charge Don Serrano, CFD First Deputy Fire Commissioner Robert S. Hoff and Village of Bensenville President Frank Soto also participated in the news conference and live-burn demonstration.

Safety and security for travelers are a priority at Chicago's airports and working closely with local, state and federal agencies to plan and prepare for all types of emergency situations will enhance training plans and promotes regional collaboration between safety and security agencies.

The ATF re-certification involves training the Certified Fire Investigators in current investigative procedures including origin and cause of vehicle fires, Fire Suppression Systems and live fire scenarios with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Chicago was chosen as the venue due to the availability of both residential and commercial buildings in the southwest land acquisition area.

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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](http://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](http://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](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

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