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## **Philadelphia International Airport Dedicates Aircraft Fire Fighting Training Facility**

On September 17, 2003, Philadelphia International Airport held a special ceremony to officially dedicate its state-of-the-art Aircraft Fire Fighting Training facility. The \$10 million facility allows Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) personnel to perform simulation training using the latest technologies.

"This is quite a remarkable resource that the Philadelphia Fire Department has to give the best training possible to its aircraft fire fighters," said Mayor John F. Street. "These type of rescue and fire fighting operations are very unique and require highly specialized training, which this facility enables the department to do."

Charles J. Isdell, the City's Director of Aviation, said, "The Philadelphia Fire Department's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Unit is one of the best in the country. This training facility enables us to maintain their already high standards and keep Philadelphia at the forefront of aviation safety."

The ARFF facility, which is located on the southern boundary of the Airport, consists of a mock-up aircraft in the center of a burn pit, which can simulate an aircraft either fully or partially engulfed in a jet fuel fire; a Special Aircraft Fire Trainer; a sophisticated computer system; and a two-story control and observation building.

The Special Aircraft Fire Trainer (SAFT), which is located adjacent to the burn pit, is an active aircraft mock-up capable of simulating a variety of aircraft fires, such as wheel, galley and cargo area conflagrations.

The high-tech computer system controls a propane fuel distribution network capable of simulating real-life aircraft fires. Numerous sensors and safeguards can trigger emergency shutdowns, if needed.

The training areas are operated from a two-story control and observation building. From this elevated vantage point, the fire-training supervisor can create multiple fire scenarios for training purposes while maintaining the ability to shut down the training simulations, if necessary.

Fire Commissioner Harold B. Hairston stated, "This facility adds a new dimension to our training program as it allows more realistic scenarios with which to sharpen their skills and test their equipment. The use of separate training mock-ups permits us to practice almost every conceivable scenario we might encounter."

The ARFF training facility will also be available to other regional airports seeking to fulfill their aviation federal training requirements.

*Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$7.2 billion in spending to the regional economy and employing a workforce of nearly 21,000. Visit the official Philadelphia International Airport website at [www.phl.org](http://www.phl.org)*