



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

# News Release

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## **CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION PROVIDES SECURITY UPDATE AND INFORMATION FOR TRAVELING PUBLIC**

CHICAGO – In light of the heightened security measures following the incident in Detroit on December 25, 2009, Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino held a press conference today at O'Hare International Airport to inform the public about the CDA's security efforts, and to offer travel tips to ensure a safe and efficient travel experience at Chicago's airports.

"Under the leadership of Mayor Richard M. Daley, the Chicago Department of Aviation is committed to providing the best travel experience possible for the millions of passengers who fly through our airports each year," said Commissioner Andolino. "The Mayor understands that in order to achieve this mission at one of the largest and busiest airport systems in the world, it is essential for us to coordinate closely and work cooperatively with all of our airport partners and law enforcement agencies."

More than 1.5 million passengers are expected to travel through O'Hare and Midway International Airports beginning today through Monday, January 4, 2010, the remainder of the holiday travel period.

"We want to remind travelers that it's important for everyone to be observant and aware of your surroundings as you travel," said Andolino. "If you see something—say something. We all must do our part to be vigilant—if you see suspicious activity, notify the nearest uniformed law enforcement official, or call 911.

Before heading to the airport, travelers are encouraged to call or check their airlines' website to confirm the status of their flight, and also to check the TSA's website, [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for the most up to date information on security checkpoint preparation.

The TSA has advised passengers to allow extra time to check in and proceed through the security checkpoint before their flight. Passengers are advised to arrive at the airport at least two hours in advance of their scheduled departure to ensure time for ticketing, baggage check-in and security screening.

Passengers are also reminded about the TSA's 3-1-1 restriction: If you bring liquids, gels and aerosols in carry-ons, they must be in 3-ounce or smaller containers, placed in a 1-quart, clear plastic zip-top bag. Only one bag per passenger is allowed. Larger quantities of liquids or gels should be placed in checked luggage. For more information, please visit the TSA's website, [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

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“We appreciate everyone’s patience as they travel, especially during this busy holiday period,” said Andolino. “It’s important to be well prepared for all aspects of air travel, including security checkpoint screening, to help make their experiences better for all passengers.”

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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.airportgoinggreen.org](http://www.airportgoinggreen.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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Editor’s note: photo and caption attached. High resolution image available upon request.



Photo caption: Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Aviation, provided a security update for travelers during a news conference at O’Hare International Airport on December 29, 2009. Andolino reminded passengers to be observant of their surroundings and to report any suspicious activity. She also suggested travelers check the TSA’s web site for the latest information on security checkpoint preparation.

Photo credit - Chicago Department of Aviation