



Office of the Mayor  
Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

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News Release

August 10, 2006

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**MAYOR DALEY AND CITY OFFICIALS REVIEW INCREASED SECURITY PROCEDURES  
FOR CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS**

***City Initiating Heightened Alert Protocols As A Result of Airline Terror Plot***

Mayor Richard M. Daley today joined city officials from Chicago's emergency response departments to review heightened alert protocols and increased security measures for Chicago's O'Hare International and Midway airports in light of the arrest of 21 terrorist suspects in London.

"I want to remind everyone to be vigilant as the Department of Homeland Security continues investigate these threats and contact the Chicago Police about any suspicious activity," said Mayor Daley. "I also want to assure residents and visitors of Chicago that we are implementing all necessary safeguards to ensure that we are safe as any big city can be."

At approximately 4 a.m. this morning, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that the nation's threat level had been raised to "high" or "orange" for all commercial aviation operating in or destined for the United States.

As a result of this heightened alert, the Transportation Security Administration is now prohibiting any liquids, including beverages, hair gels, shampoo, toothpaste and lotions - from being carried onboard aircraft. Passengers are being asked to pack these items in checked baggage or to dispose of them.

Passengers traveling through Chicago's airports should expect to see immediate changes in airport operations, which are expected to continue until further notice.

"I would like to thank all of the passengers at both airports for their patience as we implement these new security directives. It may take longer but these are necessary precautions we need to take to ensure everyone's safety and security," added Mayor Daley.

Changes include increased canine units, Chicago Police Officers at every checkpoint and a heightened local and federal law enforcement presence throughout the airport terminals.

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The Department of Aviation is also adding extra and reassigning existing staff to security checkpoints at both airports in an effort to help coordinate lines and educate passengers about the recent changes to the prohibited items list. In addition, we have used the following communications vehicles to urge travelers to check their luggage:

- The Chicago Transit Authority is making overhead announcements on inbound trains into O'Hare and Midway International Airports.
- Airport rental car agencies are making announcements on their shuttle buses and O'Hare's Airport Transit System (ATS) has overhead announcements running continuously.
- The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce is contacting local area hotels to recommend that they tell their guests to check their luggage at the airport.
- Message boards on roadways leading into both airports have brief announcements.
- Outbound pages are being sent to the Department of Aviation's parking e-mail notification list.

Chicago's Aviation, Police and Fire Departments, along with the City's Office of Emergency Management and Communications are closely coordinating with federal officials as well as their counterparts in other major U.S. cities to share and coordinate the latest information.

Chicago Police will continue to monitor intelligence through the Joint Terrorism Task Force and encourages the public to contact police about any suspicious activity.

The City is following its "orange" alert protocols, including the repositioning of equipment and resources consistent with what is called for when the nation's threat level has been elevated.

Enhanced security measures will remain in place until further notice.

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