

DuPage Airport prepared on Sept. 11 anniversary and every day

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West Chicago — As airports around the nation increase security leading up to the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks, officials at DuPage Airport will continue to uphold heightened levels of vigilance amid possible safety threats.

"We're on high alert 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said David Bird, Executive Director of DuPage Airport. "We're a professionally staffed operation committed to the safety and security of our customers."

Homeland Security officials have issued a nationwide bulletin in the days leading up to the anniversary of the attacks, warning against possible terror attacks using small planes.

"In a post-9/11 world, we've made security an ongoing priority for the airport. That's why we have invested in a 24-hour FAA Air Control Tower with and made significant investments in the physical security of the airport," Bird said. "With continuous upgrades to our systems, we're proud to be a leader in aviation security."

The airport also works in close partnership with DuPage County law enforcement and emergency services. "The difference between us and other airports is that we know our customers and our pilots personally. Our personnel can immediately recognize if something isn't as it should be, and we have the protocol in place to react to any threats."

DuPage Airport is one of America's premier general aviation airports and was recently celebrated as "a model for the nation" by U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood during a June 9 visit to the airport. After losing \$2 million a year less than a decade ago, the airport now produces a \$2 million profit and is debt free.