



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION RECEIVES TOP HONORS FOR SNOW RESPONSE EXCELLENCE AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CHICAGO –The Operations Division of the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) at O'Hare International Airport is the co-winner of the 2009-2010 Balchen/Post Award for excellence in the performance of airport snow and ice removal from the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE).

The annual Balchen/Post Award is presented to six airport candidates in three categories: large, medium and small Commercial Airport; large and small General Aviation Airport and Military Airport.

The CDA Operations Division at O'Hare submitted an application for the large Commercial Airport category. Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. was also recognized in that category.

O'Hare previously won the award in 1978, 1988, 1989 and 1999.

“Under the leadership of Mayor Richard M. Daley, effective snow operations are a critical component of our overall mission to ensure the highest levels of safety and efficiency at both O'Hare and Midway International Airports,” said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. “We thank the Northeast Chapter of the AAAE for recognizing the dedication and commitment of our Operations staff during this past winter season.”

The award was presented during the 44th Balchen/Post ceremony held at the Annual International Aviation Snow Symposium in Buffalo, New York on April 28, 2010. Representatives from the CDA attended the Symposium to receive the award.

More than 50 inches of snowfall were recorded at O'Hare during the 2009-10 winter season, which was well above the annual average of 37.6 inches.

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The CDA Operations section is responsible for snow removal on more than 60 miles of runways and taxiways, and 20 million square feet of hold pads, hard stands and ramp areas surrounding 189 gates at O'Hare.

The CDA also provides snow removal for the numerous FAA NAVAID service roads on the airfield, more than 17,000 parking spaces in 11 lots and several miles of roadways around the airport.

The award, formerly called the Balchen Award, was named for the Arctic explorer and aviator Col. Bernt Balchen. The award now also honors Wiley Post, who along with Balchen, was one of the founders of the International Aviation Snow Symposium.

For more information about the Northeast Chapter of the AAAE and to view past Balchen/Post award winners, visit <http://www.necaaae.org/cfiles/about.php>.

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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 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.

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 to learn more about the OMP.

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Editor's note: Photo attached.

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Photo caption: Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) employees at the O'Hare International Airport, Operations Division, display the 2009-2010 Balchen/Post Award for Excellence in the performance of airport snow and ice removal – large commercial airport category. The award was presented at the by the Northeast Chapter of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) at its Annual International Aviation Snow Symposium in Buffalo, New York on April 28, 2010. O'Hare shares the recognition in its category with Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C. (Pictured left to right) Eric Sanders, Airport Manager; Jose Torres, Operations Supervisor and Oscar Polanco, Lead Motor Truck Driver, attended the Symposium and accepted the award.

Photo Credit: Chicago Department of Aviation/kp