



DUPAGE AIRPORT AUTHORITY

DuPage Airport's snow team ready for "brutal" winter

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West Chicago — As residents reel from forecast projections that Chicago will endure the worst winter weather in the nation this year, DuPage Airport expects business as usual as the cooler weather arrives.

Heavy snow and extreme cold should be expected in the Chicago area this coming winter, said national forecasting service Accuweather.com on Wednesday. Meteorologists are predicting the area will be pummeled with as much as 58 inches of snow, almost twice the snowfall in an average winter.

But DuPage's award-winning snow removal team and state-of-the-art equipment, including a recently purchased high-speed plow/sweeper truck, make airport officials confident in their ability to combat winter weather.

"We're ready for the coming winter – thanks to efficient snow-removal operations, additional vehicles and the most effective de-icing materials on the market," said Executive Director David Bird.

Bird added that the airport's primary runway – the longest in Chicago outside of O'Hare – can be cleared of snow in as little as 30-45 minutes.

DuPage's winter crew is comprised of 15 personnel that provide 24-hour coverage for snow removal. The airport has won multiple awards for snow removal, including the Bernt Balchen award for exemplary work in airport maintenance during the winter season.

Bird noted that during last February's record-breaking snow storm, DuPage Airport remained fully operational while both Midway and O'Hare airports were forced to suspend operations.

"Frankly, a few extra inches of snow isn't cause for concern for DuPage," said Bird. "We've received awards for our snow removal for good reason, and we continuously invest in upgrades to our equipment and training for our personnel."

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.