

Chicago-O'Hare International Airport

Solution: Aircraft FIRETRAINER® A-2000

Control System:

Location: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Fuel: Propane

Delivered: May 2009

Upgrade: November 2008



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Description:

After years of training countless ARFF firefighters, the Chicago O'Hare Aircraft FireTrainer Simulator was in need of a well-deserved refurbishment. Training personnel at the Airport felt there might also be an opportunity to simultaneously improve the overall training experience. Working with KFT Fire Trainer, they accomplished just that.

A more realistic looking fuel spill, improved response to both foam and water, reduced maintenance, reduced operating costs, and a new innovative walk-on surface are just a few of the characteristics of this upgraded ARFF Trainer. Older designs utilized gravel as a fuel dispersion media and did not allow trainees to experience the physics of what takes place when foam is applied to a spill fire. KFT's new Aircraft FireTrainer A-2000 Fuel

Spill design utilizes a large-scale waterbath burner design that create an extremely realistic training environment for water, AFFF, and protein foam extinguishment agents. The elimination of gravel also results in much more maintenance-friendly trainer that is cheaper to operate.

To accomplish such a large-scale waterbath burner, a new perimeter curb was manufactured. All burner elements, extinguishing agent sensors, and distribution piping systems were replaced. Equipment bunkers were fully rehabilitated (i.e., they were cleaned, deteriorated components were replaced or factory refurbished, painted, tested, and re-certified). Next, a grating and support system was made, fitted, and then removed so it could be hot dipped galvanized for long life. Finally, software upgrades were completed, including an automated winterizing line purge function. In total, the project took 8 months to complete and perhaps, most importantly, worked around the Airport's training schedule.

Overview:

- Active 75' x 10' diameter Aircraft FIRETRAINER
- Passive B-757 Style Fuel Spill Mockup
- Automated Winterizing Function
- Fire Places:
 - Cockpit Fire
 - Wing Engine Fire
 - Main Cabin Fire
 - Wheel Brake Fire
 - Lavatory Fire
 - Tail Engine Fire
 - Galley Fire
 - 3D Fuel Line Leak
 - 125' Walk-on Fuel Spill
 - Cargo Container Fire
 - Flashover Fire



Cargo Fire



Wheel Brake Fire



Flashover

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Fuel Spill



Training with Foam



To Promote
the Science
and Improve
the Methods
of Aviation
Fire Protection
and Prevention



AIRCRAFT RESCUE & FIRE FIGHTING

ARFF

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Chicago firefighters practice ARFF fire suppression and rescue drills at the Chicago Fire Department Regional Training Facility at O'Hare International Airport.

Photo by Elsbeth Miller

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