

Media Advisory – July 16, 2008

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County to break ground on new airport fire station

Snohomish County will break ground July 24 on its new Paine Field Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Station.

When completed next April, the new station will provide better protection to all airfield operations, structures and facilities located at Snohomish County's Paine Field. The airport has more than 615 base aircraft – the most of any in the state – and has 150,000 flight operations per year.

The station, more than 12,000 square feet plus a 1,300-square-foot mezzanine, will house two aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) vehicles, a structural firefighting engine and a rescue vehicle. It will provide living quarters for staff, which includes a training and exercise room, as well as offer storage and work space for equipment maintenance.

The Paine Field Fire Department provides fire and rescue protection for all airfield operations and facilities at the airport, and the new location provides quicker access to runways. The fire department also offers off-site assistance for major fires and mass-casualty incidents.

The new station replaces the current fire station – a 60-year-old structure that fails seismic standards, has no internal fire-protection system and is too small for today's more modern equipment. To accommodate services, staff has been working from a trailer since September 2005.

Total cost for the project is \$6 million with about \$4.5 million provided by the Federal Aviation Administration. The remaining funding comes from the county's Airport Enterprise Fund.

The groundbreaking will begin at 11 a.m. July 24, at the new site, one block north of the present fire station, which is located at 3601 109th St. SW.

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