

Award Winning Airport Station

San Luis Obispo Station honored for its innovative construction and design

By Dale Rodriguez, fire captain, San Luis Obispo Unit

On March 24, 2006, CAL FIRE's San Luis Obispo Unit dedicated its new Fire Station 21 located at the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport.

Station 21 received the "Obispo Beautification Award" for new construction and the Honor Award for design excellence from the Concrete Masonry Association,

America Institute of Architects, California Council.

Fire Station 21 was designed by LEA Architects, LLC of Phoenix, Arizona who have designed over 50 fire stations nationwide, including several Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) stations.

Station 21 is unique to CAL FIRE as it is the only fire station in the state that provides ARFF

protection to an airport with commercial airline operations.

The completed station includes six bedrooms, three bathrooms, one public restroom, training/emergency operation room, work-out room, large kitchen and day room, pantry, two offices, laundry facilities, turnout room, and six apparatus bays. The entire station is designed with rapid response in mind.

The cost of the completed fire station with furnishings came in just over \$3.2 million with approximately 50 percent of the funds coming from FAA grants.

San Luis Obispo Regional Airport was built in the 1930s and served as an air defense facility during World War II. In 1980, it had 212 based aircraft with annual aircraft flights of 151,000.

Currently, the airport serves three major airline commuters-Delta, United and American-with direct

connections to Los Angeles and San Francisco. It hosts two fixed-wing flight schools, one helicopter flight school, and a variety of privately owned and operated general aviation aircraft.

The airlines operate approximately 42 flights



Above, Crash 21, an aircraft rescue engine, runs through a crash drill.

Right, Airport Station 21 at dusk.

Photos provided courtesy of San Luis Obispo Airport Station Staff



a day with the airport supporting 92,000 flights annually.

Station 21 personnel staffs one T-1500 Oshkosh ARFF vehicle 24-7 and has the ability to staff a reserve Oshkosh P-4 if needed. The P-4 is expected to be replaced when a new Oshkosh

Striker crash truck arrives in a few months.

Other equipment at the station which respond to emergencies in the surrounding Edna Valley include a staffed type I fire engine, a type II medium rescue with mass casualty capabilities,

an inflatable boat with motor for swift water and surf rescue responses, and a 3,000-gallon water tender. The ARFF vehicle and the type I engine are staffed by permanent personnel with the rescue and water tender served by a very active and dedicated 25 person Paid Call Fire Company.

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We will be conducting training for California Building Officials on the Wildland Urban Interface Building Standards set to go into effect in January 2008.

We will increase defensible space inspections, enforcement, and monitoring of overall compliance.

• **Arson Prevention and Fireworks Enforcement** - We will improve and expand arson prevention measures with federal, state and local enforcement agencies. We will create penalty-based funding mechanisms for fireworks enforcement to reduce the use of dangerous fireworks.

• **“Green Construction” - Fire & Life Safety** - The department will work with the Governor’s Office, public agencies and private businesses to promote “Green Construction” and ensure that this promotion does not reduce the fire and life safety values in residential, commercial or industrial construction.

As the Governor has correctly noted, the effects of climate change represent the greatest environmental challenges we face today. CAL FIRE’s Fire Protection, Fire Prevention and Resource Management mission directly contribute to meeting the

Governor’s green house gas reduction goals now and in the future. Similarly, the consequences of climate change are influencing the severity, length and diversity of incidents that CAL FIRE must be prepared to successfully respond to in order to protect both the people and the economic and environmental assets of California. CAL FIRE is pursuing a comprehensive action plan to meet the Governor’s Climate Action Goals:

1. Increase Tree Planting Statewide to Capture Carbon Dioxide

- We plan to maximize the use of bond funds (Propositions 12, 50 and 84) to expand and increase urban and rural tree planting. We will also partner with local government, non-profit, and private sector entities to accomplish our objective of supporting efforts that result in an additional five million trees in urban areas by 2020.

2. Conserve Forest Landscapes to Optimize Carbon Storage

- We will work with local government to support improved land use planning to conserve forested lands (e.g. Timber Production Zones) and minimize the impact of conversion to other uses.

We will continue to work closely with local government to obtain

maximum consideration of wild-fire safety adaptation and mitigation during revision of the fire safety element of individual county general plans.

3. Grow Trees Faster to Store More Carbon

- The department will enhance the research and demonstration capabilities of the entire state demonstration forest system to become known for conducting “World Class” interdisciplinary research. We will support ongoing research in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and University of California (e.g. Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management). We are near completion of a new management plan for Jackson Demonstration State Forest and we will update other state forest plans in accordance with Board of Forestry policy and with stakeholder support.

These are just a few of the many priorities for the years ahead. As we move into fire season we must keep focused and always remember **Safety First**.

Regards,



For the entire message from the Chief visit : www.fire.ca.gov