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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ENHANCES SAFETY  
BY IMPLEMENTING 24-HOUR SHIFTS FOR  
FIREFIGHTERS/PARAMEDICS**

**MOVE TO TRADITIONAL FIRE DEPARTMENT  
SCHEDULE INCREASES COVERAGE WITH  
EXISTING PERSONNEL**

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Texas (September 24, 2002) – DFW International Airport today implemented 24-hour shifts for the Airport’s 139 firefighters/paramedics, increasing overall coverage by 30 percent and improving personnel safety.

The change in shift scheduling brings the Airport in line with traditional fire department scheduling of 24 hours at work and 48 hours off duty. DFW firefighters/paramedics will work an average of 52 hours weekly. Prior to the change, these employees worked 40 hours each week on one of three eight-hour shifts. The change allows for the staffing of a new mobile intensive care unit (MICU), the staffing of an additional fire truck and increases in vehicle staffing to four firefighters per unit without the need to hire additional manpower.

“In response to these uncertain times, we felt it was necessary to make the scheduling change as the best way to improve overall Airport coverage while increasing the personal safety of Fire Services Division personnel,” says Alan Black, chief of DFW Airport Department of Public Safety Fire Services Division. “When fire trucks are fully staffed with four fire fighters, that unit is safer than having two or three firefighters as we did under the former plan.”

The decision was influenced by The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) independent study that determined crews comprised of at least four firefighters were safer than smaller crews. The NFPA issued a new industry standard as a result of the findings.

The changes in scheduling will increase the number of personnel available at any time by 30 percent. With the existing 139 firefighters/paramedics, coverage will be comparable to having 180 personnel.

The DFW Airport Board invested \$6.9 million to remodel and expand the four existing fire stations to accommodate the new shift schedule. Each station was expanded to include living areas complete with sleeping quarters and full-sized kitchens. A fifth station is under construction and is scheduled to open in May 2003.

Located halfway between the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, DFW International Airport is the world's third busiest, offering nearly 2,000 flights per day and serving 55 million passengers a year. DFW International Airport provides non-stop service to 130 domestic and 30 international destinations worldwide.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

- This release, and past news releases issued by DFW International Airport, are available online at [www.dfwairport.com](http://www.dfwairport.com) in the "Media Site" section.
- For the latest news, real-time flight information, parking availability or further details regarding the many services provided at DFW International Airport, log on to [www.dfwairport.com](http://www.dfwairport.com). To arrange interviews contact DFW Public Affairs at 972 574 NEWS (6397) or Ken Capps, APR, Vice President Public Affairs, [kcapps@dfwairport.com](mailto:kcapps@dfwairport.com).

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