

Be prepared for new security measures at airports

Although air traffic has resumed after the September terrorist attacks, security has dramatically increased at the nation's airports. Air travel is part of doing business for many people in the United States, and the employees of the Department of Energy and its contractors at the Hanford Site are no exception.



Domestic travel restrictions for Department of Energy and contractor employees were lifted on Oct. 2. But, before you leave on your next trip for business or pleasure, take a moment to read the *Consumer Reports* Web site at <http://www.consumerreports.org/static/0109ttips0.html>.

Here are some suggestions from *Consumer Reports* and our own Hanford security organizations:

- Leave earlier for the airport! It is suggested that you arrive two hours ahead for domestic departures and three hours ahead for international departures.
- Carry a paper ticket. When you have a choice, do not use an electronic or "paperless" ticket. A paper ticket will hasten your security check, and it's more easily endorsed by another airline if your flight is delayed, diverted or canceled.
- Don't forget identification. Airport officials will closely scrutinize photo identification, so it pays to carry more than one. (Do not use your Hanford security badge as a form of photo identification.)
- Be smart about packing! With greatly enhanced security procedures, many objects reportedly are being confiscated, including pocket knives, razors, scissors, nail clippers, knitting needles, aerosol cans and lighter fluid. Remember that you may be asked to open any gift-wrapped or unopened packages. Check with the airline if you have questions about what is and isn't allowed.
- Pack fewer items. You — and other passengers — will pass through airport security more quickly if you have less to check. Security officers will closely scrutinize camera gear and electronic equipment such as laptop computers, radios and cell phones, so bring only what you really need.

U.S. citizens urged to consult State Department before traveling abroad

If you are planning to travel to another country, here is some advice from the State Department; more information is available at <http://travel.state.gov/wwc1.html>.

U.S. citizens planning to travel abroad should consult the Department of State's Public Announcements, Travel Warnings, Consular Information Sheets and regional travel brochures, all of which are available at the Consular Affairs Web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. American citizens overseas may contact the American Citizens Services unit of the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on security conditions. American citizens in need of emergency assistance should telephone the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate before visiting there.

In addition to information on the Internet, U.S. travelers may hear recorded information by calling the Department of State in Washington, D.C., at (202) 647-5225 from their touch-tone telephones, or receive information by automated telefax by dialing (202) 647-3000 from fax machines.

Personnel with security clearances or those who have held security clearances within the past five years are reminded that when traveling to a DOE-identified "sensitive country," a counterintelligence briefing and possible debriefing are required. The site counterintelligence officers are also providing informational travel briefings to personnel traveling to any country. Contact your counterintelligence officer or security department for more information. A list of sensitive countries is available at http://www.rl.gov/sas/pg3_psec/pg36/pg364/pg364v1.htm.

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- Don't dawdle at the airport. Be aware that curbside check-in is no longer available, and idling vehicles may be towed without notice, so loitering outside the terminal is not recommended. New restrictions will make parking even harder.
- Limit your send-offs. Remember, unticketed individuals can no longer pass through security. (Exceptions may be made for travelers with special needs, such as unaccompanied minors or passengers with disabilities.) So discourage family members and friends from seeing you off or greeting you upon return.
- Be polite. Airport security will not tolerate verbal abuse. Harsh words or joking about security could lead to an arrest.
- Know whom to call. Carry contact information for the airline and your travel agent. It could be quicker to re-book delayed or canceled flights by phone than to wait on a long line in the airport terminal. Carry a copy of the airline's timetable, available online or at the airport.
- Know your rights. Airlines have specific responsibilities to assist you when your flight is delayed, canceled or diverted, although less assistance is required when it's caused by a major event outside their control. The airline's contract of carriage (available at airline ticket offices and airport counters and on some airlines' Web sites) spells out the fine points.
- Be mindful of your surroundings at all times, and report any suspicious behavior or packages to law enforcement.
- Be patient! These new security procedures are necessary but time-consuming. There will be longer lines at ticket counters, security checkpoints and boarding gates. It's more important than ever to be civil to airline employees and your fellow passengers. ♦