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DFW AIRPORT DEBUTS FAA-PROHIBITED ITEMS DISPOSAL PROCEDURES FOR PASSENGER SECURITY CHECKPOINTS

New procedures go beyond FAA mandates and add convenience, speed and additional security for travelers

DFW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, Texas (October 17, 2001) —DFW International Airport announced today the placement of new “one-way” disposal containers at each of its 17 security checkpoints to further assist passengers in the safe disposal of FAA-banned items.

The 35-gallon barrels will be placed on the public side of screening checkpoints, and will give travelers another option to self-declare FAA-banned items. Now, ticketed passengers can place the item in the barrel, take it back to their vehicle, or return to the ticket counter and check it. The barrels are similar in concept to disposal containers used in a physician's office. Once the item is placed in the container, it cannot be retrieved.

In the past, rules and methods for disposal of banned items varied between screening companies and the airlines that regulate them. This new procedure will standardize and centralize the process at DFW Airport.

"We believe this process is one more way the Airport can assist the air carriers and screeners in providing thorough yet convenient service to our guests, while safely disposing of any banned items," says Jim Crites, executive vice president of operations.

"DFW's Department of Public Safety has always disposed of banned items, and now with this new type of contraband, we will routinely empty the containers and destroy the items, assuring none of the contraband is left unsecured in the terminal area."

DFW Airport Public Safety Officers will empty the barrels daily. Collected items will be disposed of and destroyed in a secure location.

Screening procedures at DFW Airport have generally moved faster than at other airports because the 17 security checkpoints are located across four terminals. The Airport believes this new security procedure will not only enhance safety, but save time for travelers and speed the screening process.

New FAA rules regarding knives and other sharp items are in force beyond security checkpoints in all terminals following the September 11 attacks. Possessing, for example, a Swiss Army knife or other legal cutting instrument is not a violation of state law on the public side of the terminal.

"Of course we hope as people become more and more familiar with the new FAA rules they will simply leave all sharp instruments at home or check them in their luggage," says Alvy Dodson, vice president of public safety at DFW Airport. "However this new procedure gives all our guests more options in handling their possessions safely and securely."

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