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Sawyer International Airport (SAW) is progressing through the access control and gate improvement project. This project, in conjunction with additional security changes, will raise the airport security level from CAT IV to a CAT III. The purpose for the security changes is to have the necessary systems and procedures in place that allow air carriers with aircraft of 61 seats or larger to provide service into SAW. With this upgraded security designation there are some changes everyone will need to adhere to once the system is complete and operational.

The new security levels require the airport to designate, control, and monitor the Airport Operations Area (AOA), secure areas, sterile areas, and Security Identification Display Areas (SIDA). Everyone who has a need to gain access onto any of the named areas will be required complete the application process, undergo training and be processed through the Security Threat Assessment (STA) and fingerprinting dependent upon the level of access.

- AOA operations only will require the minimum of a STA.
- Sterile, Secure, and SIDA will require fingerprinting and STA .

Vehicle gate entry points will require an issued airport badge which will be programmed for the gate(s) that each individual will/is authorized to use. The vehicle gates will require the use of the badge for both entry and exit as this is part of the CAT III airport requirement. It may be somewhat of an inconvenience initially, but everyone will become accustomed to the system.

As with most projects, estimated times of completion remain probable until the project is actually done. Our initial estimate was spring of 2016, but we are looking at a few delays that will give SAW and tenants additional time to complete the training and be enrolled into the system.

We are requesting that all persons applying for an airport media badge fill out the necessary documents required for the specific access levels desired. Accompanying the issuance of the badges, all persons operating a vehicle on the AOA will be required to complete an AOA non-movement drivers test. The AOA Drivers test can be scheduled through the Airport Managers office and must be completed before the access badges are issued.

These upgrades are designed to help maintain a more secure airport for all of our tenants and airport users; we thank you for your support and help with these changes.