



# THE DIABLO AVIATOR

## Buchanan Field, Live Training



The County's Office of Emergency Services has classified Buchanan Field Airport as a critical facility in Contra Costa County. In the event of a major catastrophe, Buchanan Field would be a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) logistics staging ground. To prepare for such an emergency the Airport coordinated full scale table top training exercises with County first responders including the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, the Sheriff's Office, the county's Office of Emergency Services, and other mutual aid agencies.

Contra Costa County Airport Safety Officers and County first responders spent a week at Buchanan Field for cross-training exercises including simulation live fire. A plane fire presents unique conditions and County Firefighters received firsthand experience on aircraft emergency response. Continued coordination and support between the first responder agencies is vital to quick and efficient response in time of an emergency. The training exercise received full support from the County Supervisors and participating agencies.

KCBS reported on the importance of the joint exercises and live fire training, quoting the Director of Airports Keith Freitas:

"It's very important...First responders have got to be prepared and get as close to real life as they can get."

### WINTER 2019

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*"The very existence of aviation is proof that man, given the will, has the capacity to accomplish deeds that seem impossible." – Eddie Rickenbacker*

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## Entering a Secure Area: Tenant Gate Access

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Recent events at both Buchanan Field and Byron Airport have highlighted the need to revisit airport security and the tenants' roles/responsibilities. All tenants at Contra Costa County Airports (Airports) were provided these responsibilities upon receiving Access Card privileges. However, since the Access Card change at Buchanan Field was over five years ago, Airport Staff felt it was a good time for a refresher.

In recent months, the Airports' has had an incident with a tenant allowing someone to follow them through the security gate, a practice called "piggybacking". Piggybacking is against the rules of the Airports and should never be engaged in. However, escorting a guest that you take responsibility for by controlling their movements under the rules of the Airports is not piggybacking.

There can be issues with piggybacking even when it is someone you have known as a fellow tenant for many years. The Airport must control access to the Airport Operations Area (AOA) and at times that means suspending access privileges from individual tenants for a variety of reasons that you, as a tenant, may not be aware of. Allowing piggybacking could lead to access consequences, financial consequences, or even criminal prosecution due to the actions of the individual(s) that was/were allowed in.

A MAJOR concern with allowing piggybacking is unauthorized access to the AOA by individuals that do not have access privileges thus compromising the safety and security of the Airport, tenants, and aircraft. One recent event at Buchanan Field is a perfect example of this type of access, an unauthorized individual was allowed to piggyback and then proceeded to cross the active runways before being intercepted by Operations staff.

Airports staff is aware some tenants react negatively when other tenants, following Airports' procedures, will not let them piggyback. This article also serves as notice that any tenant who confronts a fellow tenant for following Airports' procedures may have their access privileges suspended or revoked. A tenant that is following the rules should not have to suffer AT ALL for doing so. Report any issues to Operations staff at 925-383-0005.

It is up to everyone to protect the security of the Airports and it is your responsibility in doing so by accepting access card privileges. Airports staff cannot be everywhere, and tenants are most often the eyes and ears on the field. Tenants that would like to see the rules for access privileges or airport security can check the Airports' website below or email/stop by for copies.

[www.cccounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/47242/Security-Access-Control-Card-Guidelines?bidId=](http://www.cccounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/47242/Security-Access-Control-Card-Guidelines?bidId=)

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## County Tie-Down and Hangar Rates Lowered

The Airports have lowered the County hangar and tie-down rates by establishing new rates and charges that went into effect on January 1, 2019. As the Airports operate as a business without the use of tax funds, the new rates will allow the airports to be more competitive in the robust Bay Area region. Additionally, there are new Airports rates to cover costs of services desired by tenants that are now available to all users.

One of the most powerful marketing tools for an airport is its existing tenants and businesses. Their experience (positive or negative) is quickly transmitted to potential new tenants and businesses. To better ensure a positive experience and word-of-mouth referral, existing tenants and businesses will receive a rent incentive if they:

- Have more than one hangar or tie-down
- Prepay 12-months or more in rent
- Refer a pilot or tenant that rents a hangar or tie-down
- Refer a business that enters into a lease or license agreement with the County
- New hangar or tie-down tenant receives their pilot's license through a business located on one of the County's airports

The full rates and charges may be found online at [www.contracosta.ca.gov/7124/Airport-Rates-Charges-Effective-1119](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov/7124/Airport-Rates-Charges-Effective-1119)

\*Incentive conditions may apply.

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## Airport Improvement Projects (AIP)

The Airports maintain an Airport Improvement Project (AIP) list for both airports to develop and plan facility improvements in order to provide first class services to airport users. As general aviation airports, Buchanan Field and Byron Airport have received entitlement funds of \$150,000 annually from the Federal Aviation Administration and may submit projects for additional discretionary AIP grant funding. AIP funds originate from the Airport and Airway Trust fund, which draws support from user fees, fuel taxes and other revenue sources.

Recently, Buchanan Field's entitlement funding increased to \$1 million annually due to the number of enplanements provided by JetSuiteX.

Upcoming AIP Projects include:

- Buchanan Field Runway 14L-32R rehabilitation in 2019
- Buchanan Field Airport Layout Plan Update currently underway
- Buchanan Field Terminal building estimated for construction in 2021
- Buchanan Field ARFF Building estimated for construction in 2021

## Tenant Airport Amenities and Environmental Compliance

Both the Buchanan Field and Byron Airport have multiple tenant amenities available including an aircraft wash rack, aircraft owner maintenance hangar, and aircraft waste oil convault. At Buchanan Field, the amenities are located on the east ramp, with a second waste oil convault at the northwest hangars, and at Byron they are located at the end of the F-Row hangars.

As California has entered the rainy season, and in support of the Airports environmental compliance, please review the following best practices related to tenant amenities.

### Aircraft Wash Rack

Please ensure your aircraft is centered and entirely on the wash rack to allow the waste water to enter the wash rack drain. Please note the following as identified on the wash rack sign.

- Wash aircraft ONLY
- NO engine degreasing
- NO paint stripping

### Owner Maintenance Hangar

The Owner Maintenance Hangar (OMH) allows for permitted aircraft maintenance that that is not allowed on the tie-down ramps and requires being inside a covered space for stormwater compliance. Permitted aircraft maintenance includes preventative maintenance as described in FAA Part 43, Appendix A-Preventative Maintenance. Additionally, Airport staff provides spill kit material in case of an accident. Please note the Buchanan Field OMH is available by reservation made through the Airport office.

### Waste Oil Convault

The Airport Waste Oil Convaults are conveniently located adjacent to both Owner Maintenance Hangars for convenient disposal of waste oil. Notification information is posted in case of emergency and spill kits are on hand if needed.

Thank you for following these simple steps and helping us meet our regulatory obligations under the Stormwater Industrial General Permit, Hazardous Waste Program and promoting pollution prevention in our water ways and Bay.



## New Assistant Director of Airports for Operations



Russell Milburn – Assistant Director of Airports for Operations and Safety

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Russell promoted into the Assistant Director of Airports position from his Airport Safety Officer IV position. Mr. Milburn brings over 20 years of Airport Operations experience to his new position. He has been a member of the Contra Costa County Airport operations team since July 2008.

He came from an airport similar to Buchanan in Kirksville, MO where he was a member of the Airport operations team that also operated the Fixed Based Operator. He worked as a licensed airframe and powerplant mechanic for five years. Mr. Milburn is a Certified Member with the American Association of Airport Executives and has achieved multiple certifications from the Association in the areas of Airport Certified Employee (ACE) Operations, ACE Security, and Airport Master Firefighter. He is a graduate of Truman State University with a degree in Criminal Justice and was born and raised on a family farm. Both his Airport and life experiences will assist the Contra Costa County Airports team maintain and raise the high standards at both Buchanan Field and Byron Airport. His door is always open for any concerns that tenants, stakeholders and the surrounding community have.

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## New Additions to Airport Operations Staff



Hrag Barsoumian

Hrag joined the Public Works Airport Division as an Airport Safety Officer II in November 2018. Hrag began his aviation career with Pacific Sates Aviation at Buchanan Field and he is enthusiastic to continue his passion for aviation and customer service with the Airports.



DeWayne Herrman

DeWayne joined the Public Works Airport Division as an Airport Safety Officer II in November 2018. DeWayne began his aviation career in 2006, as a line service technician at Sterling Aviation. Since then he has worked at Louisville International Airport, San Jose International Airport and with the Concord Jet Center before joining the Airports Division.

## Santa Claus at Buchanan Field



The Airports hold an annual Santa event for the public and this year saw CalStar Air Medical Services, an air ambulance service based at the airfield, join in on the fun. While the early morning rainy weather dampened the airfield and hundreds of good boys and girls lined up waiting outside to greet Santa and his Elf, it could not dampen their holiday joy. The crowd's spirits were uplifted as Santa and his Elf flew into the Buchanan Field on a Eurocopter helicopter piloted by CalStar. Santa and his Elf greeted the cheering children and were escorted into the Crowne Plaza Hotel where the line stretched from one end of the hotel to the other for a chance to visit with Santa and take home a keepsake memory picture. The free Buchanan Field Airport event raised hundreds of pounds of food and hundreds of dollars in donations for the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano. Hope to see you all next year!



Find us on Facebook!



Do you read the Airports' Newsletter?

**Bring** in this coupon for a free gift.



Contra Costa County Airports has created a Facebook page for both Buchanan Field and Byron Airport to better engage airport users and the community. Stay up to date with activities, events, and fun facts at the Airports.

Facebook Page Name

Buchanan Field- CCR

Byron Airport-C83



*The Diablo Aviator is a publication of the Contra Costa County Public Works Airports Division. Past newsletters are available at [www.ContraCostaCountyAirports.org](http://www.ContraCostaCountyAirports.org). The newsletter editor is Daniel Wick. The Director of Airports is Keith Freitas.*

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY AIRPORTS

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