

Aspen / Pitkin County Airport

ASPEN, COLORADO, USA



Implementing “Toward Excellence”, Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Training Plan

In Critical Path, Inc.'s prior work for the Aspen / Pitkin County Airport (ASE) they recommended that the airport use training as one of its primary tools in moving toward its excellence goal of being the best commercial service mountain airport in North America. The Director and Assistant Director of Aviation selected as a starting point for implementing this “learning / training” approach to excellence, the airport's ARFF section. The work completed by Critical Path, Inc. on this project was the development of phase one training for the ARFF staff.

The process of developing an ARFF Training Program was intentionally interactive; the ASE staff and Critical Path, Inc. worked together to develop a curriculum that “fit” ASE. At the heart of the work Critical Path, Inc. developed a training program that provided for the initial training of ARFF staff and also provided for on-going recurrent training to maintain and enhance firefighter proficiency. Critical Path, Inc.'s consultants prepared a list of training topics for both initial and recurrent training scenarios. In October of 2000, the ARFF Training Development Team met with Critical Path, Inc. and determined which elements of the training program would be adopted to meet the needs of the ASE / Pitkin County Airport. Those needs were further defined to determine how often the training was needed / desired, how the training would be administered and what outside resources would be used.

While working with the airport staff on this project Critical Path, Inc. identified specific areas related to ARFF that could be enhanced. The program as it existed was strong and met the minimum FAA standards; our approach was to build on this strong foundation an even better program. To that end Critical Path, Inc. developed a list of “FINDINGS” and “RECOMMENDATIONS” for use by the Airport in developing its program.

The work was conducted between February 2001 and June 2001.

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