

Career Day @ Port of Portland (emergency/fire and airport operations)

When:	Wednesday, April 29, 2015, from 8:30 am to 11:30 am (check-in at 8:15 am)
Where:	Portland International Airport
Industry:	Emergency services, aviation
Careers:	Firefighting, emergency response, wildlife management, media relations, public affairs, airport security
Notes:	Open to tri-county students. Registration closes April 24. See your career coordinator or counselor for more information.

What is the Port of Portland, anyway? The Port describes itself as “an 800-employee, 24/7 operation with more than \$1.6 billion in marine and aviation transportation infrastructure and real estate assets that generates nearly \$250 million in annual revenues.” Its key customers include shipping lines, railroads and airlines. The Port’s official mission is to “connect the region to the national and global marketplace.”

This career day has a big emphasis on emergency services. Why? Safety at the Port goes far beyond those pesky airport security checkpoints. People involved in safety and emergency services at the port include firefighters, paramedics, wildlife managers and many others.

What would I do on this career day? Students will participate in an emergency drill simulation involving an ice storm. They’ll work in small teams and try out the roles (police, fire, media relations, etc) involved in real emergencies.

They will also get a behind-the-scenes look at parts of the airport, including the runways and such. They’ll hear from a wildlife manager about challenges they may not have considered, such as coyotes wandering onto the runway. Also, they will talk with people from a variety of fields about their career paths and the skills/education required to be successful in their jobs.

What makes the Port special? You mean besides the carpet at the airport? Well, the Port is a hub of air and sea shipping activity. The airport is “among the busiest air terminals in the West,” according to The Oregonian. “Every day, an average of 44,000 passengers pass through PDX, which is served by nearly 20 airlines that connect Portland with cities all over the world. ...”

Did you know? The longest runway at the airport is more than two miles long.