



Photos by Terry Welsh



Groundbreaking at San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center

On May 28th, dignitaries broke ground for the \$12 Million San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center. Once completed next May, the center will be the 15th of its kind in the country. Professional firefighters from the region and other states are expected to attend mandatory lessons on battling blazes on passenger airplanes. The dollars they bring with them will help bolster a frail economy by pushing tax revenues into local cities. The notion of landing a training center in San Bernardino is more than a decade old. Locally, a Joint Powers Authority consisting of San Bernardino County Fire, San Bernardino City, and the San Bernardino Community College District was put together. The Authority created a business plan and worked with the late Rep. George E. Brown Jr. and Rep. Jerry Lewis. Congressman Jerry Lewis helped the Authority secure installments of grant funds from the Federal Aviation Administration to pay for the construction of this state of the art facility. The training center will include classrooms, a full size 727 jet, a 737-fuel fire simulator and a 727 sized specialized fire trainer. "This facility has been in the planning for nearly 10 years," Lewis said in a statement. "But it will become especially vital as we continue to face the threat of renewed terrorist attacks."