

New tower to increase safety at Reno airport

By Jeff DeLong, Reno Gazette-Journal

Flight safety has been improved and the future of aviation at Reno-Tahoe International Airport will take off following the opening of a new air traffic control tower, officials said Tuesday.

The Federal Aviation Administration's operation of the new tower started Saturday but was celebrated Tuesday at a ceremony outside the 195-foot-high structure.

"We have achieved a towering achievement," said Krys Bart, president and chief executive officer of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority.

The new tower – three times the height of the airport's old tower, which was erected in 1957 – gives FAA controllers a much-improved view of aircraft on airport runways and ramps. From the old tower, parts of the airport were not visible.

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