This summer I worked at Denver International Airport under the Airport Infrastructure Management Division as a safety intern. I generally worked about 39 hours a week from May 31st to August 11th and it was jam packed with new adventures every day.

I cannot stress enough how diverse the work environment was for this internship. The airport is basically a miniature city, and as such there are a plethora of jobs that keep it up and running... 35,000 to be exact.

The biggest task I took on was developing the SOSA Project, which stands for Site Observation Safety Auditing. To do this I had to go around to 13 different departments within the airport and interview them on their most commonly preformed or most hazardous jobs, create a database of audit sheets based upon their feedback, and then go view them actually preforming the job to ensure that they were following proper safety protocol. The project was incredibly interesting because I got to go out into the field almost everyday and see behind the scenes of how the airport operates. The photo to the left is from when I audited a building maintenance crew clean the top of the tents in the main terminal.

No two days were the same for me during the 10 weeks that I was there. The times where I sat at my desk were greatly outnumbered by the times where I was off in the field doing exciting things. Just to name a few: I conducted on-site safety audits for over 13 different departments, job shadowed 6 individuals, earned a Green Belt Certification, earned a Red Cross CPR and First Aid Certification, did a Hazardous Waste Training, attended business etiquette training, helped create an Emergency Preparedness shed, toured the airport too many times to count, went with my boss to do accident investigation reports, gave presentations in four meetings, acted as a host and moulage artist in the full scale exercise (in which we simulated a fake plane crash as seen to the right), distributed emergency blankets to AED stations around the airport, attended the ASSE conference in downtown Denver,
attended multiple employee appreciation cookouts/ events, made custom fit earplugs for employees working in field, and conducted an environmental quality/ indoor air quality investigation. So I think it’s fair to say I was quite busy!

My experience at DEN was an extremely positive one. I didn’t know what to expect when I originally started, but the internship program itself and the individuals I had the pleasure of working with made it better than I could have ever hoped for. I would recommend this opportunity for students that are team oriented, have a strong work ethic, possess strong communication skills, and crave a diverse and fulfilling work environment.