

# Sackings in Athens safety row

FROM JOHN CARR  
IN ATHENS

THE director and three senior officials of Athens international airport have been dismissed after it was found to lack basic emergency services.

Tasos Mandelis, the Transport Minister, ordered the dismissals after a small Olympic Airways airliner with undercarriage failure was forced to land at a military airport north of the city because the equipment for deploying foam on the runway at Athens was out of order. None of the 19 passengers and crew was injured, although the plane was badly damaged.

Mr Mandelis rejected the initial report by the Athens Airport Administration which failed to apportion blame. It has been reported that the foam machines at Athens had been out of order for months, with no immediate plans for repair or replacement.