

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-8
December 28, 2012***

Operations and Services

AVIATION WEATHER SERVICES

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: Supersedes NWS Policy Directive 10-8, dated September 23, 2005. There are three changes: In section 2.5; removed support to shuttle and human spaceflight; in section 2.7; removed certification of pilot weather briefing from NWS Office at the FAA Academy; added section 2.9 on Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers.

- 1.** The objectives of the National Weather Service (NWS) Aviation Weather Services Program (AWSP) are to provide quality weather forecast information and services to the aviation community for the protection of life and property, and to increase the efficiency of the National Airspace System.
- 2.** This directive assigns the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 2.1** The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) is responsible for:
 - a. Preparing policy and procedure directives.
 - b. Managing standard system programs.
 - c. Consolidating and analyzing performance and effectiveness indicators.
 - 2.2** NWS regional headquarters offices are responsible for:
 - a. Ensuring field offices are organized, trained, and equipped to fulfill AWSP obligations.
 - a. Providing technical assistance to field offices.
 - b. Overseeing regional aviation weather service outreach efforts.

- c. Evaluating performance and effectiveness of the AWSP within their region.

2.3 Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) are responsible for:

- a. Providing weather forecast information and services for aviation operations across their area of responsibility.

- b. Preparing and maintaining an annual aviation operating plan describing specific outreach efforts, such as contacts, meetings, and familiarization visits conducted with local aviation product users. This plan should be a part of the WFO's station operating plan.

2.4 Center Weather Service Units are responsible for providing meteorological information and services consistent with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) agreements and applicable aviation procedural directives.

2.5 The Spaceflight Meteorology Group is responsible for providing worldwide weather support to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Johnson Space Center.

2.6 The Aviation Weather Center (AWC), Alaska Aviation Weather Unit, and WFO Honolulu, as Meteorological Watch Offices for the International Civil Aviation Organization, are responsible for providing en route and terminal domestic and international forecast information and services consistent with relevant international and FAA agreements. The AWC also provides forecast information for the Washington World Area Forecast Center.

2.7 NWS meteorologists at the FAA Academy are responsible for providing aviation weather training to FAA personnel.

2.8 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction are responsible for producing numerical weather prediction guidance, outlooks, and discussions to support the AWSP and the Washington World Area Forecast Center.

2.9 The Washington and Alaska Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers provide advisories and guidance to aviation users on volcanic ash for their designated areas of responsibility.

3. All NWS AWSP components will ensure aviation services and products are standardized and consistent.

4. The NWS measures the effectiveness of the AWSP using: ceiling/visibility forecast thresholds; and thunderstorm forecast criteria of probability of detection and false alarm rates.

5. Procedural directives will be issued to implement this policy as needed and determined by the Director, OCWWS.

//SIGNED// 12/14/2012
Laura K. Furgione Date
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