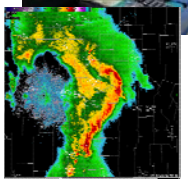
NWS Weather Forecast Offices

Meteorologists are on staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days per year. In addition to providing public forecasts, watches, warnings and advisories, we also provide services for customers in the aviation community. In fact, we have at least one forecaster dedicated to serving aviation interests on shift at all times.

"Aviation Forecasts and amendments are provided 24-hours per day"

Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts

Our primary responsibility at the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Topeka, KS is to issue and amend ***Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF's)***. Routine TAF's are valid four times daily: ***00Z, 06Z, 12Z and 18Z***, and are amended as conditions require. TAF's will include information about surface wind speed and direction, visibility, present weather (ex. Fog or Thunderstorms), cloud cover and heights, and low-level wind shear (LLWS).



Weather Data

The National Weather Service uses ASOS (Automated Surface Observing System) in conjunction with radar, satellite imaging, PIREP's and radiosonde balloons to keep track of changing weather conditions.

For more information visit:

http://www.weather.gov/topeka

"General aviation flights are especially vulnerable to adverse weather conditions".

NWS & Flight Services

The National Weather Service along with other aviation related offices in the NWS, the FAA and the private sector, provide a variety of aviation weather products and services that are designed to create awareness of hazardous flying conditions and help in maintaining efficient air traffic movement. This includes commercial and general aviation concerns for large and small airports. Services include TAF's, AIRMETS, SIGMETS, and detailed convective forecasts. Services are provided by Weather Forecast Offices (WFO's), Center Weather Service Units (CWSU's), Aviation Weather Center (AWC), and Flight Service Stations (FSS).

For Weather Briefings call
WX-BRIEF or (800)-992-7433

Or on the web at https://www.afss.com

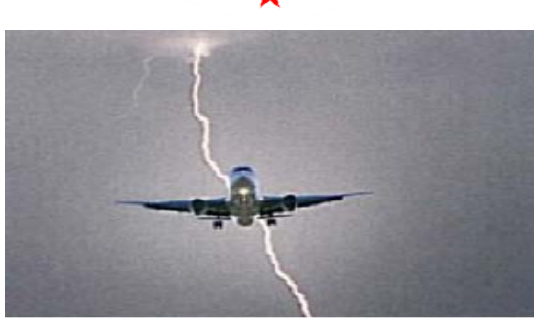
National Weather Service

1116 NE Strait Ave.
Topeka, KS 66616
http://www.weather.gov/topeka

Phone: 785-234-2592

WFO Topeka

Aviation Services



National Weather Service

Topeka

1116 NE Strait Ave.
Topeka, KS 66616

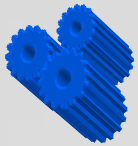
Aviation Services from the National Weather Service

"A team of professionals providing focused, flexible, impact based services".

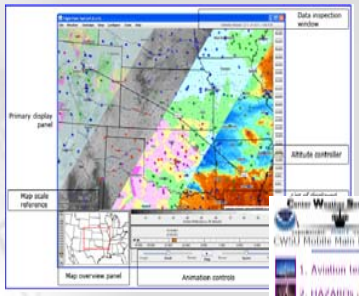
Aviation Weather Center

The Aviation Weather Center delivers consistent, timely and accurate weather information for the world airspace system. It is a team of high skilled professionals dedicated to working with the aviation community to enhance safe and efficient flight. For more information, please visit **www.aviationweather.gov**.

AWC Aviation Digital Data Service (ADDS)



The **Aviation Digital Data Service (ADDS)** provides text, digital and graphical forecasts, analyses, and observations of aviation related weather variables. One of the most comprehensive tools available through the ADDS is the **Flight Path Tool**. This downloadable feature allows customers to display three-dimensional icing, turbulence, winds, temperature, and humidity in horizontal and vertical views. Two-dimensional data including satellite, radar, cloud ceiling, surface visibility, flight categories and text data such as METAR's, AIRMETS and SIGMETS are also available. For more information visit **www.weather.aero**



CWSU

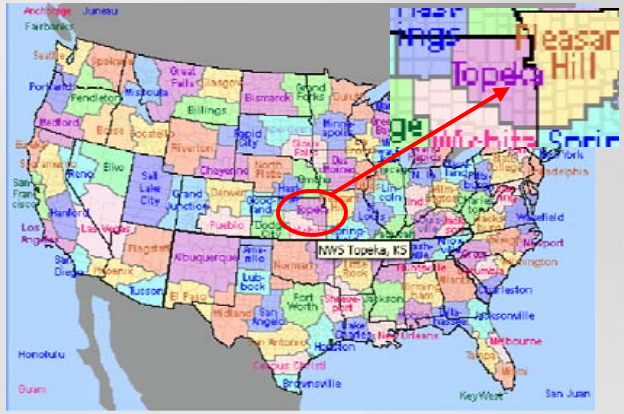
Each **Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU)** is located within the confines of a FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC). Customers include the ARTCC Traffic Management Unit (TMU), en-route air traffic controllers, FAA tower/TRACON controllers and Flight Service Station (FSS) personnel within the CWSU's area of responsibility. CWSU Olathe, KS has primary responsibility for the Topeka WFO. In addition, CWSU meteorologists consult with FAA maintenance personnel, private and military aviation weather service providers and airport authorities to collaborate on weather impacts in the National Airspace System (NAS). For more information please visit **www.crh.noaa.gov/zkc/sitemap.php**

Meteorologists at the CWSU generate two products for dissemination outside the FAA; a Meteorological Impact Statement (MIS) and Center Weather Advisory (CWA). The MIS is an ATC planning tool detailing weather expected to impact the safe and efficient flow of air traffic within a 2 to 12 hour period. The CWA product is a short term in-flight advisory pinpointing hazardous weather already causing an impact or expected to cause an impact within a 2 hour period. They are also responsible for disseminating Pilot Reports (PIREP's), and the weather training of air traffic controllers.

With the increasing use of **mobile technology**, the CWSU has created a mobile "friendly" interactive web page to keep pilots and the aviation community informed with the latest weather information. For more information please visit **www.wrh.noaa.gov/zoa/MOBILE/ZOA2.htm**

Aviation Forecast Discussion

WFO Topeka meteorologists prepare an **Area Forecast Discussion (AFD)** correlating with every TAF issuance. The aviation section of this discussion explains the forecasters reasoning behind the TAF. It also provides an overview of the expected weather around the TAF sites, and the confidence the forecaster has in the forecast. You can find the discussion at **www.aviationweather.gov/testbed/afd** and click on the County Warning Area (CWA) corresponding to the location of the TAF site.



How you can help the NWS

The NWS uses pilot reports (PIREPS) in our forecast process every day! Your report of weather conditions aloft help us to fine tune the weather forecast process and services. **Your help is highly valued and greatly appreciated!** To submit a PIREP, contact your local FSS, submit it to air traffic controllers, or you can visit **www.aviationweather.gov/adds/pireps** to submit your report online.