

Useful Websites

NWS Huntsville Homepage:

www.weather.gov/huntsville

Aviation Weather Center:

www.aviationweather.gov

National Radar Webpage:

www.radar.weather.gov

National Weather Service Homepage:

www.weather.gov

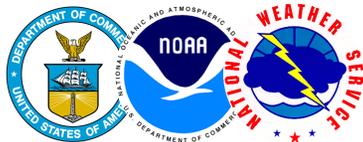
Search for METARs:

adds.aviationweather.gov/metars/java/

What's Ahead in Aviation Forecasting?

Over the coming months, two new additions will be joining the aviation suite at NWS Huntsville. The first will be an Aviation Discussion. An aviation section will be appended to the routine Area Forecast Discussion at least four times a day, coincident with each routine TAF issuance.

In early November 2008, several major airports around the country will switch to 30-hour TAFs, allowing for increased capability of long-term flight planning. While neither HSV or MSL will initially receive a 30-hour forecast, the format of all TAFs will change slightly to accommodate the new forecast period.



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

Aviation Services

*Serving Northern Alabama and
Southern Middle Tennessee*



www.weather.gov/huntsville

Aviation Weather Services at the National Weather Service

The National Weather Service (NWS) Office in Huntsville, AL is one of 122 NWS offices around the country responsible for aviation forecasts and warnings for thousands of regional and international airports around the country. Four times a day, seven days a week, the NWS in Huntsville writes 24-hour forecasts for two airports in Northern Alabama: Huntsville International (HSV) and Northwest Alabama Regional Airport (MSL). These forecasts are used by commercial pilots and general aviation customers alike, and strive to provide the



most accurate depiction of the weather within a five mile radius of each airport. These

forecasts, known as Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (or TAFs, for short) aid the customer in making flight decisions by clearly delineating between aviation flight categories, wind speed and direction, visibility, ceilings, and significant weather. Since weather is a primary or contributing factor in nearly one-third of all aviation accidents, when severe weather threatens either HSV or MSL, the NWS in Huntsville wastes no time in issuing Airport Weather Warnings. These short-fused products give both pilots and ground crews time to take action before severe weather strikes.

Terminal Aerodrome Forecast

From Huntsville International

**KHSV 232030Z 232118 29007KT P6SM VCTS BKN070CB
TEMPO 2122 VRB15G25KT 3SM TSRA OVC025CB
FM0200 VRB03KT P6SM SKC
FM0800 00000KT 2SM BR SKC
FM1400 07004KT P6SM FEW050**

Commonly Used Codes

Used in METARs and TAFs

TS...Thunderstorm	FG...Fog ≤1/2 mile
RA...Rain	HZ...Haze
DZ...Drizzle	CB...Cumulonimbus
SH...Shower	VRB...Variable (wind)
BR...Fog >1/2 mile	VC...A 5-10 mile radius
SM...Statute Mile	around the airport

METARs

From Huntsville International

**METAR HSV 232053Z 33012G23KT 3/4SM +TSRA BR
BKN015 BKN044 OVC100 21/19 A3010 RMK A02 WSHFT
2044 P0016**

- 232053Z...Date and Time in Zulu (Z)
- 33012G23KT...Wind Direction and Speed (Knots)
- 3/4SM...Visibility
- +TSRA BR...Present Weather
- BKN015 BKN044 OVC100...Sky Condition
- 21/19...Temperature and Dewpoint (°C)
- A3010...Altimeter
- P0016...Precipitation (within the last hour)

Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS)

A METAR is a scheduled weather observation taken at the end of each hour that includes surface wind, visibility, sky condition, precipitation type, surface temperature, dewpoint, and altimeter. This observation is taken by an ASOS, thus providing automated weather reports for locations around the

country 24-

hours a day.

There are several METAR sites within the Tennessee

Valley; for a full listing, including

real-time data from each, please use the webpage listed on the back of this pamphlet.



Flight Categories

Pilots are rated by category in which they are classified to fly. The NWS in Huntsville keeps these flight categories in mind when writing aviation forecasts. Here is a break down for Visibility (SM) and Ceiling (FT) for each flight category:

- VFR (Visual Flight Rules): >5SM, >3000 FT
- MVFR (Marginal VFR): 3-5SM, 1000-3000 FT
- IFR (Instrument Flight Rules): 1-<3SM, 500-900 FT
- LIFR (Low IFR): <1 SM, <500 FT