

# Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in Nevada

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Location	Type	Years	Details
<b>Austin</b>	WBO	1944-1945	A Weather Bureau station operated briefly from May 1944 to September 1945, before returning to second-order status (which had begun in 1936 to support aviation operations).
<b>Beatty</b>	WBO	1944-1945	Weather Bureau operations began in January 1944, and continued for over 1.5 years, before becoming a second-order station in September 1945.
<b>Carson City</b>	WBO	1891-1905	Observations began in 1887, but came under Weather Bureau control in November 1891. The office was located at the federal building.
<a href="#"><u>Elko</u></a>	WBO WSO WFO	1930-1935, 1941-present	The Weather Bureau opened on December 16, 1930, in facilities built by the Boeing Company. Operations of the office were turned over to the CAA in July 1935, which manned the station through October 1941. In December 1964, the office was moved downtown, with airport observations assumed by the FAA. The office was closed for a few months in the summer of 1969, before reopening at the old post office in September. The office remained at that location until August 1995, when a new facility was opened during the NWS modernization.
<a href="#"><u>Ely</u></a>	WBAS WSO WSCMO	1938-1999	An airport station was established at Yelland Field in October 1938, with upper-air observations beginning the next month. The upper-air function was relocated to Elko in 1994. The office became a contract meteorological observatory in 1996, and was completely closed in 1999.
<b>Jackass Flats</b>	WBO	1958-1965	This Weather Bureau office was operated to support the Nevada Test Site. It opened in December 1958, in Area 25 of the NTS. It was operated only sporadically between August 1959 and May 1960, and again changed to intermittent operations in December 1961, continuing in that mode through at least 1965.
<a href="#"><u>Las Vegas</u></a>	WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1935-present	The Weather Bureau opened an office in Las Vegas on 8/15/1935, at Western Express Field (now Nellis AFB). Upper-air observations began on 9/25/1945 with one flight a day, with a second flight added the following April. After the Air Force base was temporarily closed, the office was moved to Alamo Field (McCarran Field) on 12/18/1948. The upper-air observations were transferred to the Nevada Test Site at Yucca Flat on 10/10/1966. In 1976, the office was moved from the airport administration building to the Hughes Charter Terminal Building (after spending 6 months in a trailer), and a WSR-74C radar was activated at the end of the year. Construction on a new office about 2 miles southwest of McCarran Airport began in January 1994, as the office was to be given forecast operational duties as part of the NWS modernization; this office opened in April 1995. After assuming additional coverage areas from nearby offices, the county warning area was over 70,000 square miles, one of the largest in the nation. The WSR-88D radar was constructed at nearby Nelson Peak in 1994 and commissioned in September 1995, at which point the WSR-74C was decommissioned. In December 2010, upper air observations resumed after the Desert Rock office was closed.
<b>Mercury</b>	WSMO	1978-2010	Operations in Desert Rock began in April 1978, after being transferred from Yucca Flat. Surface and upper-air observations were conducted at the Nevada Test Site northwest of Las Vegas, at the NWS Nuclear Support Office. Due to funding issues with the Department of Energy, upper-air observations during much of the early 2000's were not available on weekends

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or holidays. By late 2010, the office was closed after the upper-air function was transferred to the Las Vegas office.

<a href="#">Reno</a>	WBO WBAS WSO WSFO WFO	1905- present	A Weather Bureau office was established 11/10/1905 at the Thoma-Biglow Building. It relocated to the IOOF Building in 1910 and the post office in March 1934. An airport station was established at Hubbard Field (current Reno-Tahoe International Airport) in January 1931, and the city office was relocated there in August 1942. Operations were reduced to 18 hours a day in 1968. The office was assigned forecast responsibilities for the state of Nevada in 1974, and resumed 24-hour operations. A new office was built away from the airport in 1994, and upper-air observations were added in October after being relocated from Winnemucca. Residual operations at the airport were transferred to the FAA in 1999.
<b>Tonopah</b>	WBO	1906-1929	This office was opened in July 1906 and remained operational through July 1929, at which point it became a second-order station.
<a href="#">Winnemucca</a>	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO WSCMO	1877-1928, 1929-1944, 1945-1999	The Signal Service established an office in July 1877 at the Arlington Hotel. The office was destroyed by a fire in December 1880, and subsequently relocated to the Donalin Building, until the office was closed in 1883. A new office was re-established in December 1884, and moved to the old courthouse in 1888, where it was located when the Weather Bureau took over. After operating in a couple different locations, it relocated to the municipal airport in September 1949. In November 1950, it began joint operations with the CAA, and was closed 5 hours a day, until resuming full operations in 1953. Hours were again reduced in 1958 due to funding shortfalls, and became full-time again a few years later. In 1994, upper-air observations were transferred to the Reno office. The station converted to a contract meteorological observatory in 1996, then was closed in 1999.
<b>Yucca Flat</b>	WBO WSO WSMO	1956-1978	This office operated to support the Nevada Test Site, used for nuclear testing. Upper air observations began in October 1966, after being moved from Las Vegas. The office closed 6/13/1978, with functions transferred to Desert Rock (Mercury).

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