

Weather Bureau/National Weather Service History in South Dakota

Location	Type	Years	Details
Aberdeen	WBO WSO WFO	1964- 1981, 1982- present	The Weather Bureau established an office in Aberdeen in 1964, staffed 24 hours a day. From 1978-81, the office dropped down to 16 hour a day operations. It closed completely in 1981, then reopened in 1982. From 1982-86, it operated 24 hours on weekdays, and 16 hours on weekends. From 1986-94, the office was staffed 16 hours a day, then resumed 24 hour operations in 1994 with an increased staff.
Huron	SigSvc WBO WBAS WSO	1881- 1996	A Signal Service station opened in Huron in July 1881, and was taken over by the Weather Bureau 10 years later. An Airways Station was established in March 1938 at Howes Municipal Airport; the two offices were consolidated in 1955. Upper-air observations were periodically done in the 1950's and 1960's as part of a research project; this became a permanent function in 1973. A WSR-57 network radar was commissioned in April 1972. The office was closed in 1996, and its functions divided between the Aberdeen and Sioux Falls offices.
Pierre	WBO	1891- 1933	The Weather Bureau opened its office in Pierre in July 1891, at the Bank of Commerce Building. It was moved to a more open area due to the beginning of upper air observations utilizing kits, which were taken from 1898 through 1900. The station was closed in July 1933, with observations being taken by a cooperative weather observer.
Rapid City	WBO WBAS WSO WFO	1900- present	Observations in the Rapid City area began in 1888, with a Weather Bureau office established downtown in the early 1900's. A separate airport office was opened January 19, 1939, at the old Rapid City Airport (now Ellsworth AFB). The city office merged into the airport office in 1942; the WB operations were relocated to the new Rapid City Airport in October 1950. A city office was re-established in November of 1995, near the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. The airport functions were soon automated, and NWS operations were expanded at the new city office.
Sioux Falls	WBO WSO WSFO WFO	1941- 1942, 1946- present	The Weather Bureau opened an office at the Sioux Falls Airport in September 1941, although observations were taken by private individuals since 1890. The office temporarily closed during World War II, from 8/1942 to 12/1945; when it reopened 1/1/1946, it had an all-female staff. New facilities were obtained in 1947, although the office temporarily operated downtown 4/1951 and 4/1952 due to flooding. The WSR-1 radar was installed in 1956, followed by the WSR-74C in 1976, and the WSR-88D in late 1993. The office assumed forecast responsibility for all of South Dakota in 1972. New facilities, and realigned forecast and warning responsibilities, were implemented in the 1990's.
Yankton	SigSvc WBO	1873- 1933	The Signal Service station was established in March 1873, and the Weather Bureau took over in 1890. The office was destroyed in a fire 11/28/1901. The station reopened at the Wagner Building on 1/1/1902. The office was closed at the end of July 1933, and observations were transferred to the Yankton State Hospital as a cooperative observer station.
