Federal Aviation Administration

FAA Aviation Weather Cameras

2018

Alaska Aviation Workshop

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Web Address:  http://avcams.faa.gov

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Aviation Weather Cameras

Camera Services are a Needs-Driven innovation

Intended to improve Aviation Safety and Efficiency

- Safety: Cameras help reduce weather-related aviation accidents
- Efficiency: Reduces weather-related flight disruptions

Camera Services are proven successful

Alaska Pilots are very fortunate:

- Yesterday: you could only “Fly out and take a look”
- Today: you can “Look Before You Fly”
Current Program Status

• Two Weather Camera Websites: >230 million hits/year
  – Legacy: http://avcams.faa.gov/
  – New Site: http://avcamsplus.faa.gov/

• 230 FAA Owned Sites: No new sites are planned or funded

• WCAMs is now “Hosting” non-FAA images on its websites
  – NAV Canada images; State of Alaska; US National Park Service; US Air Force; Taquan Air; and others
  – WCAM PO provides technical expertise and assistance
  – Helps to expands FAA camera services to areas of need
2018 System Upgrades/Improvements

• Final 20 Gen-2 Site Upgrades will be completed
• 20 new advisory weather at sites lacking METARs
• Improvements for remote site-monitoring and controls
• Optimizing our camera locations to expand cam services
  – Relocating Johnstone Bay-2 cameras to Sand Point – CY 2018
  – Move Klawock cams from National Guard building to Island Air Express Hangar (Improves camera views at the airport) – CY 2018
  – Others are in the planning stages…
New Website http://avcamsplus.faa.gov
2018 Updates: http://avcamsplus.faa.gov

• General Improvements
  – Add “Contact Us”, “About”, and “FAQ” info in Header
  – Increase Speed/Performance; Reduce map-page clutter; Improve the “Search” function
  – Automated website monitoring and notification system
  – Improve Data Feeds: Weather, Flight Data, NOTAMs, and others.

• User Settings and Customization capability
  – Users can Save/Name a custom list of Favorite Sites and Routes

• Updates to improve mobile compatibility and functions
The 3-Phases of Merrill Pass Cameras
1) Merrill Pass when it’s working…

- Merrill Pass when it’s working
2) Merrill Pass when it’s working but we don’t know why…
3) Winter!
But No Worries…
Maintenance resumes mid-February!
FAA Aviation Weather Cameras

FAA supplementary weather product.