



Fire Zone TFRs

Smoking out the information you need

by Susan Parson



National Interagency Fire Center, Boise, ID photos

With good reason, there has been a lot of attention focused on increasing pilot awareness of security-related Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR). As the fire season approaches, though, it is also important for pilots to be aware of TFRs established in the vicinity of wildfires. As outlined in Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) section 91.137, which provides for TFRs “in the vicinity of disaster/hazard areas, the FAA may issue a *Notice to Airmen* (NOTAM) establishing such restrictions in order to:

- Protect persons and property on the surface or in the air from a hazard associated with an incident on the surface (e.g., a wildfire);
- Provide a safe environment for the operation of disaster relief aircraft (e.g., firefighting aircraft); or
- Prevent unsafe congestion of sightseeing and other aircraft

above an area that may generate a high degree of public interest.

As you know, the regulations (14 CFR section 91.103) require you to

become familiar with “all available information” concerning a flight you intend to operate. So how do you learn about fire zone TFRs? Of course, you should be sure to ask for any and all TFR information when you contact



Date	NOTAM	Facility	State	Type	Description	Zoom
04/10/2007	7/7399	ZDK	FL	AIR SHOWS/SPORTS	Gainesville, FL, Friday, April 13, 2007 through Sunday, April 15, 2007 UTC New	
04/09/2007	7/7586	ZDC	MD	VIP	Hagerstown/Thurmont, MD, Friday, April 13, 2007 through Sunday, April 15, 2007 Local New	
04/09/2007	7/7534	ZAS	AZ	HAZARDS	Ganado, AZ, Monday, April 09, 2007 through Tuesday, April 10, 2007 UTC New	
04/09/2007	7/7533	ZAB	AZ	HAZARDS	Albuquerque Center, Window Rock, AZ, Monday, April 09, 2007 through Tuesday, April 10, 2007 UTC New	
04/09/2007	7/7531	ZDA	CA	SECURITY	BEALE AFB PURSUANT TO TITLE 14 CFR SECTION 997 SPECIAL, CA	
04/09/2007	7/7528	ZLA	USA	SPECIAL	Special Notice, USA	
04/09/2007	7/7527	ZLA	USA	SPECIAL	Special Notice, USA	
04/07/2007	7/7489	ZDC	VA	VIP	Fairfax, VA, Tuesday, April 10, 2007 Local	
04/06/2007	7/7460	ZAB	AZ	HAZARDS	Albuquerque ARTCC, Pinal Airpark (M2), AZ	
04/05/2007	7/7366	ZHU	TX	AIR SHOWS/SPORTS	Corpus Christi, TX, Thursday, April 12, 2007 through Sunday, April 15, 2007 UTC	
04/05/2007	7/7361	ZDK	FL	AIR SHOWS/SPORTS	Eglin AFB, FL, Thursday, April 12, 2007 through Sunday, April 15, 2007 UTC	
04/05/2007	7/7353	ZDC	DC	SECURITY	Washington, DC	

created a Web site at <<http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>> that allows pilots to read the dimensions in both “plain English” and the original NOTAM text and, most importantly, to see the TFR depicted on a chart. As the site clearly states, remember that depicted TFR data may not be a complete listing and that you should call your local Flight Service Station at 1-800-WX-BRIEF for the most recent information.

This is the FAA Web site that has all the graphic TFRs. It is found at: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. The Bureau of Land Management Web site, pictured below, can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/Aviation.html>

National Interagency Airspace Information Web Site

A second resource is the National Interagency Airspace Information Web site (NIAIW), which is available at <<http://airspace.nifc.gov>>. Developed and operated by the Bureau of Land Management, the National Interagency Airspace Information Web site includes the National Parks Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the

FAA Web Site TFR Page

TFRs must be very precisely delineated and described in the NOTAM. Ironically, however, the high level of detail needed for precise text can make it very difficult for pilots to “see” and understand the location of the affected area. For this reason, the FAA

Flight Service or access Direct User Access Terminal System (DUATS) for your official preflight briefing. Thanks to the Internet, though, there are now several additional resources—including graphical TFRs—that you can use to supplement and better understand the information you receive by phone or computer briefing. Let’s take a look.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Fire and Aviation

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Aviation

The National Office of Aviation is responsible for aircraft operation support for wildfire and resource management missions within the Bureau. BLM's aviation program is the largest within the Department of Interior's eight Bureaus. Aircraft are Bureau owned, contracted and are obtained as Call-When-Needed (CWN) or Aircraft Rental Agreement (ARA) to fill the mission requirements to meet BLM management objectives. Mission requirements are to support Wildland fire and prescribed fire operations, disaster response, animal census, wild horse and burro gather, habitat management, range survey, cadastral survey, law enforcement, forest management, photo mapping, search and rescue, and other uses related to public land and resource management. Types of aircraft include helicopters, Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS), air tactical aircraft, utility aircraft, Aerial Supervision Modules (ASM1), heavy air tankers smokejumper aircraft and large transport aircraft.

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Bureau of Indian Affairs. The goal of this Web site is to give all aviation users—both pilots and firefighters—easy online access to interactive aviation charts that show TFRs are issued because of the low-level, dense operations of aircraft in a fire zone. As with the FAA's TFR Web site, the NIAIW stresses that pilots must check the text-based NOTAMs for the most current and accurate information. Its stated goal, however, is to offer graphical TFR updates within 30 minutes of their being issued during business hours (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mountain) and twice daily during fire season (7 a.m. and 1 p.m. Mountain) on weekends and holidays. The site updates NOTAM text every 12 minutes.

In addition to providing access to graphical and text information on TFRs related to firefighting operations, the NIAIW site also displays security-related TFRs (in red); stadium TFRs (in green); laser light activity NOTAMs (in purple); and TFRs related to nuclear

sites (with a black and yellow icon). Clicking on each symbol brings up additional details about the affected area. Additional features include flight planning, airspace management tools (for members who have login access to post information on the site); fire maps; contacts; and links.

Another Web site dedicated to airspace issues involving U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (Pacific Northwest Region) is the Interagency Airspace Coordination at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/fire/aviation/airspace>>. It contains useful links, with descriptions, to FAA, military, state and private organization Web sites.

Check it out, and fly safely! And don't forget to report a fire if you spot one.



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