

Aviation Group Client Update

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IROPS CONTINGENCY PLANNING GUIDANCE PUBLISHED

The Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) published ACRP Report 65: *Guidebook for Airport Irregular Operations (IROPS) Contingency Planning*. Sponsored by the FAA, the guidebook provides recommendations for commercial passenger services airports of all sizes to develop, continually evaluate, and update their contingency plans for procedures pertaining to IROPS that may cause significant disruptions for customers.

In the wake of weather-related multi-hour disruptions, including the October 29, 2011 Bradley International Airport (BDL) incident that stranded several diverted flight for hours at BDL, the FAA pledged to eliminate lengthy tarmac delays due to IROPS. Collaborative and coordinated contingency planning among airport stakeholders is a key component of addressing current and evolving challenges that disrupt the normal flow of passengers through the air transportation system.

ARCP Report 65 draws from DOT's *Model Plan for Lengthy Airline Onboard Ground Delays*, as referenced on November 30, 2011, during the joint DOT/FAA forum held to discuss recommendations to improve critical information-sharing during severe weather. ARCP Report 65 focuses on situations that arise during severe weather including tarmac delays, passenger surges in terminals and security areas, terminal passenger capacity, off-hour conditions related to staffing for key areas, passenger conditions during extended stays, and planning for special needs passengers. The report recommends that aviation service providers, such as fixed base operators, play a crucial role in the development of the airport's IROPS contingency plan.

If you would like more information regarding ACRP Report 65 or the current state of IROPS contingency planning, please contact our office.

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