

**MERLE K. (MUDHOLE) SMITH AIRPORT
CORDOVA, ALASKA
TARMAC DELAY CONTINGENCY PLAN**

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport has prepared this Tarmac Delay Contingency Plan pursuant to §42301 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. Questions regarding this plan can be directed to Jeremy Worrall at jeremy.worrall@alaska.gov. Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport is filing this plan with the Department of Transportation because it is a commercial airport.

This plan describes how, following excessive tarmac delays and to the extent practicable, Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport will:

- Provide for the deplanement of passengers;
- Provide for the sharing of facilities and make gates available at the airport; and
- Provide a sterile area following excessive tarmac delays for passengers who have not yet cleared United States Customs & Border Protection (CBP).

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport is located in Cordova, Alaska, a remote community with a population of 2,152 (2020 census estimate) that is not connected to any road system. The Cordova community has very limited resources; this airport typically serves a single large air carrier aircraft twice daily at a private air carrier facility which only has equipment and resources for the single large air carrier aircraft (B737). There is no airport owned passenger terminal building, no FBO, nor any CBP personnel or facilities. The air carrier passenger facilities are privately owned and operated, are typically only staffed during periods of air carrier activity, have very limited sterile areas and do not offer concessions or amenities. The airport has limited hours of attendance and is closed to aircraft of more than 30 seats without prior written permission to ensure the airport is attended and ARFF is available. Given the lack of existing equipment, gates and jetbridges, it is highly unlikely that a diverted aircraft would be able to deplane passengers at this airport, except in the event of an emergency.

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport strongly encourages aircraft operators to contact the airport at (907) 424-3202 for prior coordination of all unscheduled flights.

Airport Information

Name of Airport: Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport

Name and title of person preparing the plan: Jeremy Worrall, Airport Operations Superintendent

Preparer contact number: (907) 451-5230

Preparer contact e-mail: jeremy.worrall@alaska.gov

Date of submission of plan: 5/12/12; resubmission 6/14/12; resubmission 6/21/12; resubmission 4/19/2017; resubmission 6/24/2022

Airport Category: Non Hub

Contact Information

In the event of diversion or other irregular operations events, aircraft operators should contact airport staff at (907) 424-3202 for assistance.

Plan to Provide for the Deplanement of Passengers Following Excessive Tarmac Delays

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport does not own or operate any of the equipment needed to safely deplane passengers from air carrier aircraft and is, therefore, unable on its own to provide for the deplanement of passengers. Additionally airport personnel are not trained to assist in the deplanement of passengers using equipment owned or operated by air carriers or contract service providers. We will provide a list of airlines, ground handlers, fixed base operators and others who may have the necessary equipment and personnel to safely deplane passengers to airlines as soon as practicable after receiving requests from such airlines experiencing excessive tarmac delays at the contact number listed above.

Plan to Provide for the Sharing of Facilities and Make Gates Available in an Emergency

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport does not own, operate or control any passenger facilities. Due to the special circumstances at this Alaskan airport, the gates and passenger terminal buildings at Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport are exclusively owned by an individual air carrier, staffed only during periods of carrier activity, and are not controlled by the airport. We are unable to direct a tenant airline to accommodate another air carrier aircraft at its privately owned facility. We will provide a list of tenants who operate limited passenger facilities and may be able to provide assistance after receiving requests from airlines experiencing excessive tarmac delays at the contact number listed above.

Plan to Provide a Sterile Area for Passengers Who Have Not Cleared United States Customs and Border Protection

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport does not own, operate or control any passenger facilities. In addition, there are no international passenger processing facilities and no local CBP officials. CBP officials would have to be flown or ferried approximately 150 miles to this airport in order to facilitate international passenger processing. We contacted CBP on 6/14/12 to discuss establishing a suitable temporary sterile area to provide for the deplanement of passengers on diverted aircraft who have not yet cleared customs. CBP Area Port Director Lance Robinson has determined that no facilities exist at Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport that would be suitable to serve as a temporary sterile area. Alaskan CBP requires that in the event of an emergency international flight diversion; the air carrier must contact CBP 24/7 at (907) 271-6313. CPB will determine the appropriate contingency measures on a case by case basis.

Public Access to the Tarmac Delay Contingency Plan

Merle K. (Mudhole) Smith Airport will provide public access to its Tarmac Delay contingency plan by posting in a conspicuous location on the Statewide Aviation website <http://dot.alaska.gov/stwdav/AirportList.shtml> .