



SMS SAFETY CENTRAL

Creating a Positive Safety Culture



Clara Bennett
Executive Director



Hannah Naveda
Operations Coordinator

SAFETY PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

SMS: A WAY OF LIFE AT THE AIRPORT

Welcome to the March issue of the BRAA SMS newsletter. This issue highlights our recent FAA Safety Award win, ongoing safety strategies, and updates on key initiatives including wildlife protection, infrastructure projects, and emergency preparedness. As we continue to prioritize safety and operational excellence, we're proud to share these developments with our Airport community.

TENANT SAFETY NEWS

Page 2

CURRENT SAFETY PROJECTS

Page 6

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Page 12

TENANTS SAFETY NEWS



SAFETY WEEK 2024: RECAP

Boca Raton Airport's annual Safety Week, held in October 2024, was a resounding success, reinforcing our commitment to safety across all Airport operations. With the theme "Soaring with Safety," the week emphasized the principles of our Safety Management System (SMS) and encouraged active participation from all Airport users.

Key Highlights

The week was filled with engaging activities designed to educate and involve our Airport community:

Tenant Safety Sessions: Informal gatherings over coffee and donuts provided a relaxed setting for discussing safety best practices.

SMS Quiz: A fun way to test knowledge of our Safety Management System (SMS) and its role in maintaining a safe environment.

Fire Extinguisher Lunch and Learn Training: Attendees received fire extinguisher training from the Boca Raton Fire Rescue Services Department. The class consisted of learning about fire extinguishers and included a hands-on live fire exercise.

Prizes and Customized Safety-Themed Giveaways: Participants received personalized items reinforcing the SMS message.

Through these activities, Safety Week 2024 significantly enhanced safety awareness and promoted a proactive safety culture throughout Boca Raton Airport.



2024 SAFETY HERO AWARD

Boca Raton Airport is proud to recognize Omar Contreras and Ron Andring from Atlantic Aviation as the recipients of the 2024 Safety Hero Award. Their dedication to maintaining a safe and secure environment at the Airport is truly commendable.

Omar and Ron have demonstrated a strong commitment to safety through their proactive approach to identifying and mitigating potential hazards. Their contributions have not only enhanced the safety culture at Atlantic Aviation but also positively impacted the broader Airport community.



JOIN THE AIRPORT STAFF AS WE CELEBRATE SAFETY WEEK IN 2025

To celebrate Safety Week 2025 (June 23–27), the Boca Raton Airport Authority (BRAA) will be hosting several events, including:

- Safety Week kickoff with Donuts for Tenants
- Blood Drive
- Tabletop Active Shooter Training
- Pilot's Meeting: Aviation Weather Forecasting and Hurricane Preparedness
- Driver Safety Course

Safety Week is designed to be a forum for sharing information and innovative thinking about Airport safety hazards to keep people safe and reinforce the Airport as a safe place to work and a safe destination. In addition to expanding their safety knowledge, participants of Safety Week will have the opportunity to win prizes and giveaways!



REPORT A SAFETY ISSUE

You can easily report a safety issue or make a suggestion by accessing the link below through the Airport's website.

BocaAirport.com/safety-management-systems



REPORT AN ISSUE

[Report a hazard or make a suggestion](#)

If you would like further information regarding SMS, or if you are experiencing an issue reporting a hazard, please email SMS@bocaairport.com or contact Airport Operations at 561-391-2202.



2023 FAA GENERAL AVIATION SAFETY AWARD

BRAA Honored with FAA General Aviation Safety Award

The Boca Raton Airport Authority (BRAA) received a prestigious recognition for its outstanding commitment to safety. On February 4, 2025, at the Southern Region Airports Conference in Atlanta, the BRAA was presented with the 2023 FAA General Aviation Safety Award by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Southern Region Airports Division.

This accolade highlights the Airport's exceptional dedication to safety practices and innovations, particularly the successful implementation of its voluntary Safety Management System (SMS). A standout achievement was reaching 100% participation from tenant organizations in the SMS program.

The success of the BRAA's safety initiatives is largely attributed to its comprehensive "Soaring with Safety" campaign, which includes:

- Proactive hazard identification and risk mitigation strategies
- Enhanced communication between management and tenants
- Data-driven decision-making processes
- Regular safety training and awareness programs
- Public service announcement videos
- Recognition for "Safety Heroes"
- Annual Safety Week activities
- SMS Safety Manual and bi-annual newsletter



Boca Raton Airport Authority Executive Director Clara Bennett emphasized the significance of this achievement: "Our team has always put safety first, and it's gratifying to see the FAA recognize our efforts. Many airports apply for this award, which goes to show that we're leaders in aviation safety."

This award emphasizes Boca Raton Airport's position as a model for general aviation airports nationwide, demonstrating the significant impact of proactive safety measures and setting new standards for the industry.

We all play a role in keeping our community safe.

If you **see** something,
say something®



Safety is everyone's responsibility, and the Boca Raton Airport Authority (BRAA) is proud to partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) national "If You See Something, Say Something®" campaign. This initiative raises awareness of behaviors that may indicate terrorism-related suspicious activity and emphasizes the importance of reporting such activity to local law enforcement.

Recognizing Suspicious Activity

Suspicious activity involves behaviors or situations that seem unusual or out of place. Examples include:

- Someone attempting to access restricted areas
- Unattended bags or packages
- Individuals observing or recording Airport operations without authorization

It's important to remember that factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity are not indicators of suspicious behavior. The focus is on actions and behaviors that appear out of the ordinary.

How to Report

If you see something that doesn't seem right:

1. **Call 855-FLA-SAFE:** This statewide tipline connects you directly to local authorities.
2. **Use the Florida See Say App:** Submit reports quickly and securely through your smartphone.
3. **In Emergencies:** Always call 911 for immediate assistance.

Safety is a team effort at The Boca Raton Airport. Report any unusual activity to airport staff or authorities immediately. Your awareness helps keep our airport secure.

ANNUAL PILOT'S MEETING 2024



In September 2024, Boca Raton Airport hosted its annual pilot meeting, bringing together the aviation community for an engaging and informative session. The event featured a special guest, Lt. Tim Spencer from Coast Guard Air Station Miami, who shared valuable insights and experiences, while West Boca Raton Community High School catered the event, offering a delicious lunch spread for all attendees.

This meeting underscored the Airport's commitment to fostering a strong and supportive aviation community. We appreciate the participation of all attendees and look forward to future events.

CURRENT SAFETY PROJECTS



New Generator Enhances Airport Safety and Reliability

Boca Raton Airport has completed a vital safety upgrade by replacing the emergency generators for the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) and the Airfield Electrical Vault. This project involved replacing the associated peripherals, cabling, monitoring equipment, fuel tanks, and containment equipment.

Aging Infrastructure

The airfield emergency generator was placed in service in 1996, and the Air Traffic Control Tower emergency generator was placed in service in 2005. As these units approached and exceeded 20 years of operation, required maintenance and upkeep increased.

Enhanced Safety and Reliability

From a safety perspective, the installation of these generators ensures a reliable power supply to essential facilities and Airport infrastructure. The new generator at our vault will power gates and essential NAVAID equipment, while the generator at the tower will power all essential ATC functions. Both generators can power their corresponding facilities for approximately one week. The generators are installed externally in weatherproof enclosures.

Reduced Distraction and Environmental Benefits

At the ATCT, the new location of the generator reduces potential controller distraction as there is no audible noise inside the building when the generator is running. It also eliminates any potential exhaust fumes within the building. In addition, the newer generators have much lower emission levels, providing an environmental benefit.

Complex Transportation Process

The transportation of the generator from the west side of the Airport (at Customs) to the east side (ATCT) required extensive coordination. The generator, weighing approximately one ton, was transported on a flatbed trailer. The convoy included a large crane, the flatbed trailer, and a support vehicle, with only essential vehicles participating.



An Airport Operations vehicle led the group, maintaining primary contact with ATC. An additional vehicle monitored for any irregularities, watched for foreign object debris (FOD), and ensured vehicles stayed within the parameters provided by ATC. The final vehicle ensured all vehicles cleared the Movement Area promptly to allow ATC to proceed with normal operations. Communication was essential throughout the process, with coordination via phone with the Tower to inform them in advance. The Tower then provided instructions for crossing both the taxiway and the runway, which was communicated to each driver before any movement.

The transport, removal, and replacement, from start to finish, took less than two hours. This successful generator replacement project highlights Boca Raton Airport's commitment to safety, environmental responsibility, and operational excellence.



Navigating Temporary Flight Restrictions

As we approach another period of Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFRs) in our area, Boca Raton Airport (BCT) is committed to ensuring safe and efficient operations. TFRs, often implemented during Presidential visits to nearby Palm Beach, can significantly impact air traffic.

Important Reminders for Pilots:

FAA Compliance:

All aircraft operating within the 30-nautical-mile outer ring of the TFR must adhere to FAA guidelines:

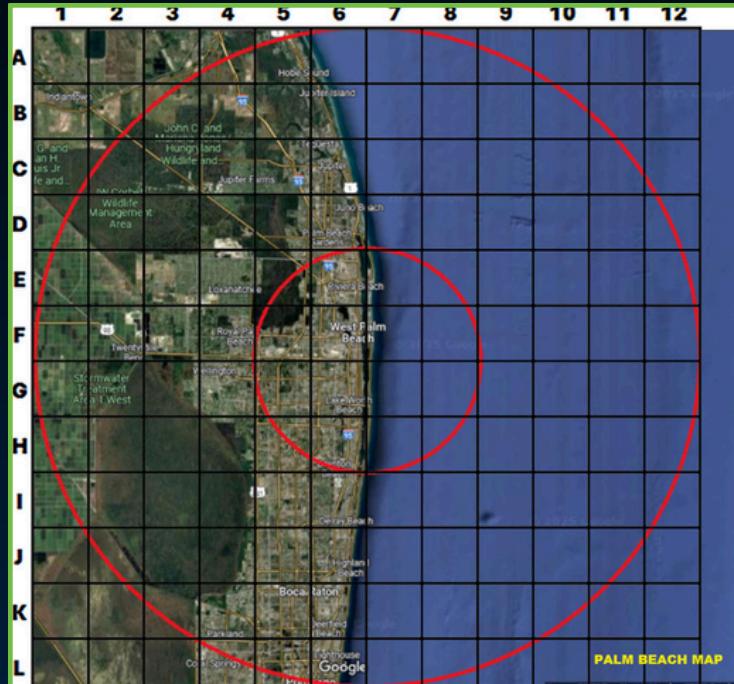
1. Be on an active IFR or VFR flight plan.
2. Squawk an assigned discreet code.
3. Remain in radio contact with ATC.

Flight Training Restrictions:

All flight training, including pattern work and practice approaches, is prohibited during TFRs.

Please remember to be vigilant and check NOTAMs frequently for the most up-to-date information, as VIP TFRs are subject to last-minute changes.

You can find the latest information at:
<https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>.



Ground Operations & Tenant Safety

During TFR events, please be aware of increased activity on Airport ramps and taxiways. Observe the following safety precautions:

Ramp Traffic:

Exercise caution when driving on the ramps, as they may be more congested during TFR events.

Leasehold Access:

Tenants are only authorized to drive within the boundaries of their assigned leasehold. If travel between leaseholds is necessary, use Airport Road.

FBO Coordination:

Boca Raton Airport's FBOs, Atlantic Aviation and Signature Aviation, play a crucial role in managing aircraft parking and services during TFRs. Aircraft operators must coordinate with an FBO for parking arrangements prior to arrival.

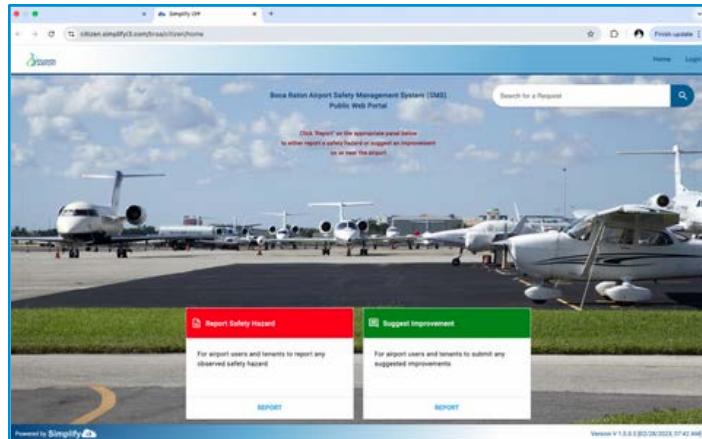
The Boca Raton Airport Authority appreciates your cooperation and understanding as we work to serve all our stakeholders. If you have any questions, please contact Airport Operations at (561) 391-2202.

SAFETY HAZARD REPORTING:

Empowering Our Community

The Boca Raton Airport has established a streamlined safety hazard reporting process to ensure that everyone can contribute to maintaining our high safety standards. Our digital reporting form is a key component of our Safety Management System (SMS), making it easier than ever to report potential hazards or safety concerns.

Accessing the Form



QR Code on Badges:

All Airport badges feature a QR code that links directly to our SMS portal. Simply scan the code with your smartphone to access the reporting form instantly.

Website:

Visit our SMS page at:
<https://bocaairport.com/safety-management-systems/>
to find the reporting form.

How to Use the Form

Using the form is straightforward:

1. Choose whether to report anonymously or provide your contact information.
2. Describe the safety concern or hazard in detail.
3. Provide any relevant additional information, such as location or time of observation.
4. Submit the form.

Our Airport Operations team reviews all submissions promptly, ensuring that each report is addressed appropriately.

Why It Matters

This reporting system is crucial for:

- Identifying potential hazards before they become incidents
- Encouraging a proactive safety culture among all Airport users
- Continuously improving our safety measures

Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility. Whether you're an employee, tenant, or visitor, your observations can make a significant difference in maintaining the highest level of safety at Boca Raton Airport.

WILDLIFE HAZARD MITIGATION:

Balancing Safety & Conservation at Boca Raton Airport

As spring approaches, Boca Raton Airport gears up for the nesting season of its most famous residents: the burrowing owls. These pint-sized birds, with their bright yellow eyes and sandy brown plumage, are not just a symbol of Florida Atlantic University (FAU) but also play a crucial role in the Airport's ecosystem.



Protecting Our Feathered Friends

The typical breeding season for Florida burrowing owls runs from February 15 to July 10. During this period, the Airport takes extra precautions to protect these threatened species:

- Construction projects are typically scheduled outside of nesting season and are planned carefully to avoid disturbing wildlife.
- Airport staff conduct regular surveys to identify and mark active burrows.
- As of our latest count, we have identified 70 active burrows on Airport grounds.



Balancing Safety & Conservation

While we cherish our burrowing owl population and gopher tortoises, we must also ensure the safety of aircraft operations. Our Wildlife Hazard Management Plan outlines specific actions to mitigate wildlife strikes:

Non-Lethal Methods: We do not use lethal mitigation methods. Instead, Airport operations staff utilize a mix of pyrotechnic rounds and noise makers to disperse any birds which may impact aircraft.



Landscaping Management: We frequently mow and maintain the airfield to minimize the attraction for species such as birds, rabbits, coyotes, and other small mammals.



FAU's mascot, the burrowing owl, can be seen at the Airport.

These owls aren't just cute; they're nature's pest control experts, helping to manage the rodent population around the Airport. Their ground-dwelling behavior and low flight paths pose minimal risk to aircraft, making them valuable partners in our wildlife management efforts.

Collaboration with Wildlife Agencies

We work closely with Florida Fish and Wildlife as well as environmental consultants to ensure the threatened species on Airport property (burrowing owls and gopher tortoises) are protected.





NEW OBSERVATION AREA: Safety by Design

Boca Raton Airport's new Observation Area, which opened on January 28, 2025, exemplifies our commitment to both public engagement and safety. This project demonstrates how careful planning and design can create a space that's both enjoyable for visitors and fully aligned with airport safety protocols.

Prioritizing Safety Through Risk Assessment

As part of our Safety Management System (SMS) program, the BRAA conducts frequent Safety Risk Assessments (SRAs) to identify and mitigate potential hazards. Before initiating the Observation Area project, we conducted a comprehensive SRA to ensure the safety of workers and future visitors.

The SRA is a core analysis within our SMS, using a risk matrix to determine the severity and likelihood of potential hazards, and subsequently, the overall risk level. This process helps us prioritize and justify the required mitigation actions. Additionally, a root cause analysis is performed to develop appropriate mitigation strategies.

Addressing High-Risk Factors

The SRA for the Observation Area project identified it as a high-risk undertaking, given the potential for major injuries on an active construction site. To reduce this risk, the BRAA took proactive measures:

Contractor Oversight: We ensured that all contractors and subcontractors provided documentation of their health and safety protocols.



Key Safety Features

The Observation Area incorporates several safety-focused design elements:

- Elevated platform is a safe vantage point for viewing airport operations.
- ADA-accessible concrete ramps and aluminum handrails ensure safe access for all visitors.
- Weather-resistant, shaded covering protects visitors from the elements.
- The Observation Area is positioned away from the fence line to reduce security risks.



Educational Signage



Live Air Traffic Control Radio

Educational Opportunity

The Observation Area serves as a unique platform for public education on aviation safety, featuring:

- Informative signage about types of aircraft, runway navigational aids, airport history, and local wildlife.
- Live air traffic control tower radio feed.

By prioritizing safety in every aspect of the Observation Area's development and operation, we've created a space where the community can experience the excitement of aviation while gaining insight into airport safety practices. The area is open to the public for free, daily from sunrise to sunset.

CERT Training Enhances Boca Raton Airport's Disaster Response

Boca Raton Airport is bolstering its emergency preparedness with key staff members completing specialized training. In November of 2024, Operations Director Travis Bryan and Operations Coordinator Hannah Naveda graduated from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training led by the Boca Raton Fire Department.

What is CERT?

CERT training aims to prepare the community for natural or man-made disasters. This FEMA-based course equips residents to help themselves and their neighbors in large-scale emergencies, such as hurricanes, when Police, Fire, or EMS may not be able to respond immediately. Participants learn essential skills over four weeks, including fire suppression, building search and rescue, first aid, and victim triage.

Airport's Vital Role

The Airport plays a critical role in the community's disaster response. Following events like hurricanes, Airport staff are the first to respond to ensure the airfield reopens as soon as it's confirmed safe. This is essential for facilitating the arrival of immediate assistance from FEMA, the National Guard, and local emergency response entities, which may require the use of aircraft. The runway is capable of accommodating aircraft as large as a C-17, if necessary.



UPCOMING PROJECTS



Airport Service Road Rehabilitation and Stormwater Improvements

The Boca Raton Airport is actively progressing with the Airport Service Road Rehabilitation and Stormwater Improvements project. This project encompasses construction, construction administration, inspection, testing, and other professional consulting services necessary for the following:

- Improvements to portions of the runway safety area for Runway 5-23.
- Modifications to BCT's open ditch stormwater treatment area adjacent to Airport Road.

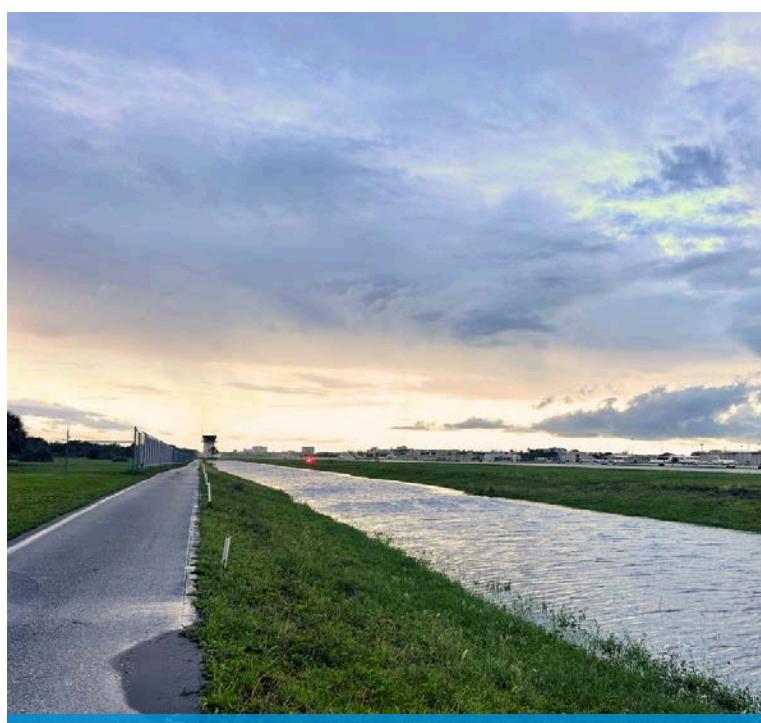
The project researches the feasibility of covering portions of these open stormwater culvert areas with underground stormwater containment systems or a comparable means for sub-surface water treatment and retention.

The objectives of this project include:

- Improving (by leveling) the terrain for RWY 5-23's runway safety area.
- Reducing the potential for wildlife attractants to this area currently caused by the open stormwater retention area.
- Repurposing surface area on the landside, currently serving stormwater treatment and retention, which would offer opportunities for other revenue-generating development or uses.



Airport Road



Service Road

Service Road

HOW TO CONTACT BRAA

Boca Raton Airport Authority
903 NW 35th Street
Boca Raton, Florida
Tel: 561.391.2202
Fax: 561.391.2238
SMS@bocaairport.com

[/BocaAirport](#)

[@bocaairport](#)

[@AirportBoca](#)

[/boca-raton-airport-authority](#)