3. Weather

3.1 - Sources of Weather



Structure & Formatting Reminder

This presentation is provided as a reference to help you prepare for the your exam. It seeks to go beyond memorization and provide explanation and rationale.

While this reference considers many of the points covered in the exam, given the bredth it is in no way exhaustive. It is suggested to consult a variety of resources when preparing for the exam.

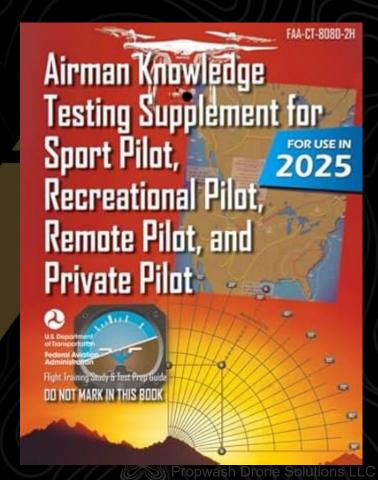
Text that is marked in YELLOW has a high probability of being referenced directly in one of the exam's nearly 400 possible questions.

Take the quiz at the end to gauge your understanding.

Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement

Many of the points covered in the slideshow and quiz reference images and concepts found in the "Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement".

You can download the document from the FAA <u>here</u>. Alternatively, a hard copy can be purchased online for around \$10.





Before every flight pilots should gather as much information about weather conditions as possible.

Preflight weather briefing is required in order to be complaint with FAA regulations.

A common source of information is the FAA and NOA (National Weather Service's) Aviation Weather Center website at (aviationweather.gov)



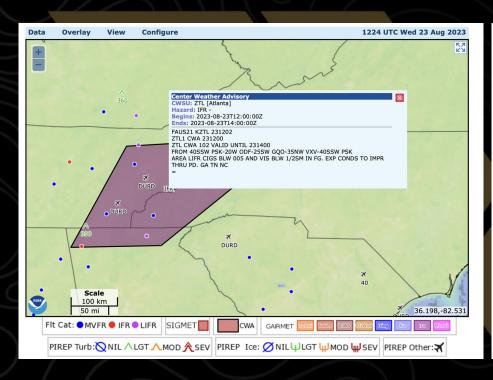


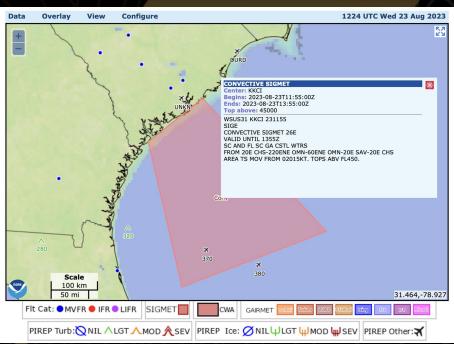
1-800-WXBrief or visit <u>1800wxbrief.com</u> can provide additional route-specific information for crewed aviation.

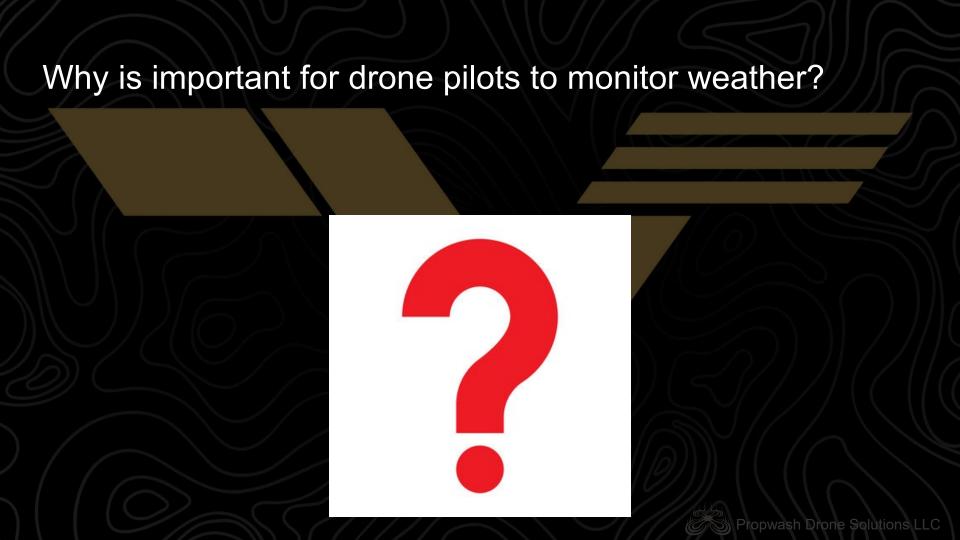
Briefing types include the following:

- Adverse Weather Conditions
 - Convective (Thunderstorm or Tornado activity)
 - SIGMET (Significant Meteorological Information)
- Synopsis
 - Weather charts
 - Barometric Pressure
- Current Conditions
 - METARs
 - Radar
 - Pilot Reports
 - Satellite
- En Route and Destination Forecasts
- Winds and Temps Aloft
- Aviation Notices
- ATC Delays









Why is important for drone pilots to monitor weather?

Weather affects drone control, visibility, and battery life. Knowing conditions helps avoid accidents and maintain compliance.

3.1 - Aviation Routine Weather Reports (METARs)

- METARs are weather reports with information relevant to aviation.
- Weather is a measure of current surface weather in a standard international format.
- METARs are issued on a regularly scheduled basis unless significant weather changes have occurred.
- A special METAR (SPEIC) can be issued at any time between routine METAR reports.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

KBNA - refers to the airport from where the report was issued.

- KBNA is Nashville International airport.
 - K-refers to the continental United States (
 - Alaska (PA) and Hawaii (PH)
 - BNA is the airport designation.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

Q: What is **KBNA**?

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

Q: What is KBNA?

A: The airport from where the report was issued (KBNA Nashville).

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

- references the date when it was issued.
- 28 is the day of the month (it is assumed that it is referencing the current month).

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

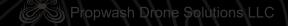
- references the date when it was issued.

- 1451 is the time (24 hour military time)
 - 14:51 = 2:51pm.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

281451Z - references the date when it was issued.

- Z mean "Zulu" and is a reference to UTC time.
 - UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) is the same as GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) that reference the current time at the prime meridian (0° longitude).
 - Zulu = UTC = GMT
- All aviation around the world references this time zone.



KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

Q: What does 281451Z mean?

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

Q: What does 281451Z mean?

A: The METAR report was issued on the 28th day of the month at 14:45 Zulu time.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

AUTO - simply means that the report was automatically generated by a computer.

- If a human has has a role in creating the report Auto is removed from the METAR.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

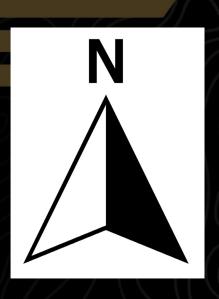
12008KT - The first three digits refer to the **direction** of the wind in degrees.

True vs. Magnetic North

General Rule - "If you read it, it's true. If you hear it, it's magnetic."

What uses True North? Charts and text sources (METAR, TAF, winds aloft, surface analysis charts)

What uses Magnetic North? Radio broadcasts referencing wind direction or ATIS/AWOS/ASOS reports (except for FSS briefers that simply read text)



Why is it important to understand which type of North is being referenced?





Why is it important to understand which type of North is being referenced?

There are different "Norths." True North, Magnetic North, and Grid North and they don't all point the same way. Confusing them can cause navigation errors, leading to incorrect flight paths or lost orientation.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

12008KT - The second two digits refer to the wind speed.

- This examples references a wind speed of 8.
 - 8 what though?

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

12008KT - KT refers to the speed being measured in knots.

- Why Knots? Knots factor in the curvature of the earth in calculating speed over long distances.
 - To find MPH = Knots X 1.151

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

12008KT

- If you see 12008G21KT the G21 means that the wind is variable and might gust to 21 knots.
- If you see VRB21KT the VRB means that winds are variable.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

4SM - refers to the distance of visibility measured in Statute Miles.

- SM are land measured miles as opposed to NM (Nautical Miles)
- If you see "10SM" it means visibility is unlimited. You will never see more than 10SM listed.

REMEMBER: ** When flying a drone you need a minimum of 3SM of visibility**



KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

- -RA HZ refers to current **precipitation**.
 - RA means light rain
 - HZ means haze.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

METAR Precipitation codes are listed as either "-", " ", or "+"

- light intensity
- blank is moderate intensity
- + is heavy intensity

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

There are a total of 35 METAR Precipitation codes.

Others include:

- FG Fog
- BR Mist (baby rain)
- DZ Drizzle
- SN Snow
- TS Thunderstorm

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

BKN - refers to the type of cloud cover.

- BKN means "broken clouds"

Other include:

- OVC overcast clouds
- SCT scattered clouds
- FEW few clouds
- CLR clear skies (below 12,000ft)

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

Sky Cover is measured by dividing the sky from horizon to horizon into 8 parts and determining how many parts are obscured by clouds.

SKY COVER	OBSERVATION	CONTRACTION
Less than 1/8 obscured	Clear	SKC, CLR
1/8 - 2/8 obscured	Few	FEW
3/8 - 4/8 obscured	Scattered	SCT
5/8 - 7/8 obscured	Broken	BKN
8/8 obscured	Overcast	OVC

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

BKN010 - refers to the type of cloud cover.

- 010 means clouds at 1,000 feet.

Other examples:

005 = 500 feet

015 = 1,500 feet

100 = 10,000 feet



KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

21/17 - refers to the current temperature (in celsius).

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

21/17 - refers to the dew point (in celsius).

 Dew point is important because fog typically occurs when the difference between the temperature and dew point is 3 degrees or less.

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

A3005 - refers to the current atmospheric pressure (30.05)

- Atmospheric pressure is measured as "inHg" inches of mercury).
- A "standard day" measures at 29.92inHg.
 - Measurements lower than a standard day will likely result in a cloudy, rainy, and windy weather.
 - Measurements higher than a standard day will likely result in a clear, cool day.

NOTE: If the pressure is rising or falling quickly it means that a front of unsettled air is moving through the area.

Why are monitoring the dew point and barometric pressure important?



Why are monitoring the dew point and barometric pressure important?

Monitoring dew point and barometric pressure helps drone pilots anticipate weather changes that could impact flight safety. A rising dew point means increasing moisture and possible fog or storms. Falling barometric pressure often signals worsening weather. Tracking both helps pilots avoid dangerous conditions.



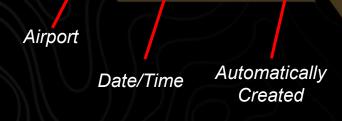
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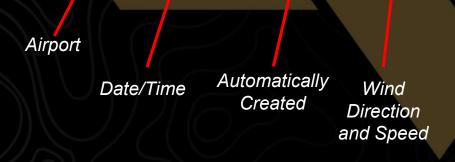
Airport

KBNA 281451Z AUTO 12008KT 4SM -RA HZ BKN010 21/17 A3005

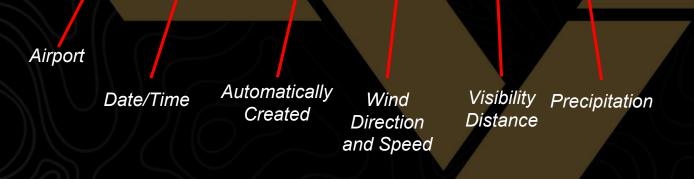
Airport

Date/Time















REMEMBER:

METARs are not forecasts. They are a snapshot of weather at a particular place at a particular time.

3.1 - Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs)

A TAF is a string of text that provides forecasted (not current) weather information for a specified period of time.

- T Terminal
- A Aerodrome
- F Forecasts

Remember:

- TAF = forecast
- METAR = current conditions

A TAF report covers a 5SM mile radius around an airport.



TAF reports are updated four times a day and are valid for a either a 24 or 30 hour period.

- 0000Z
- 0600Z
- 1200Z
- 1800Z

Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BKN050CB

FM230300 21005KT P6SM SCT090 BNK200

FM231400 22008KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250



Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

General Weather Report

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BKN050CB

FM230300 21005KT P6SM SCT090 BNK200

FM231400 22008KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250

The General Weather Report is very similar to a METAR and contains much of the same information.

Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BKN050CB

FM230300 21005KT P6SM SCT090 BNK200

FM231400 22008KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250

Forecast Change Groups

Forecast Change Groups provide information about expected changes in weather conditions over time.



3.1 - TAF Reports Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BKN050CB

FM230300 21005KT P6SM SCT090 BNK200

FM231400 22008KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250



3.1 - TAF Reports Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

KCLT - Airport designation



3.1 - TAF Reports Example

- KCLT Airport designation
- 221124Z Date and Time (22nd day / 1124 UTC)

3.1 - TAF Reports Example

- KCLT Airport designation
- 221124Z Date and Time (22nd day / 1124 UTC)
- 2212/2318 Starting time (22nd day / 1200) and Ending Time (23rd day / 1800) of the TAF.

3.1 - TAF Reports Example

- KCLT Airport designation
- 221124Z Date and Time (22nd day / 1124 UTC)
- 2212/2318 Starting time (22nd day / 1200) and Ending Time (23rd day / 1800) of the TAF.
- 23004KT Wind direction (230°) and wind speed (04 KT)

Example

- KCLT Airport designation
- 221124Z Date and Time (22nd day / 1124 UTC)
- 2212/2318 Starting time (22nd day / 1200) and Ending Time (23rd day / 1800) of the TAF.
- 23004KT Wind direction (230°) and wind speed (04 KT)
- P6SM Prevailing visibility in statute miles (6SM)

3.1 - TAF Reports Example

- KCLT Airport designation
- 221124Z Date and Time (22nd day / 1124 UTC)
- 2212/2318 Starting time (22nd day / 1200) and Ending Time (23rd day / 1800) of the TAF.
- 23004KT Wind direction (230°) and wind speed (04 KT)
- P6SM Prevailing visibility in statute miles (6SM)
- FEW060 BNK130 Few clouds at 6,000 feet / broken clouds at 13,000 feet.



Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BKN050CB

FM230300 21005KT P6SM SCT090 BNK200

FM231400 22008KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250



3.1 - TAF Reports *Example*

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

• FM221700 - From 22nd day at 1700

3.1 - TAF Reports Example

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

- FM221700 From 22nd day at 1700
- 24006KT Winds from 240° at 6 knots

3.1 - TAF Reports Example

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

- FM221700 From 22nd day at 1700
- 24006KT Winds from 240° at 6 knots
- P6SM Visibility is 6 statute miles or greater

3.1 - TAF Reports *Example*

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

- FM221700 From 22nd day at 1700
- 24006KT Winds from 240° at 6 knots
- P6SM Visibility is 6 statute miles or greater
- SCT050 Scattered clouds at 5000 feet

Example

KCLT 221124Z 2212/2318 23004KT P6SM FEW060 BNK130

FM221700 24006KT P6SM SCT050

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BKN050CB

FM230300 21005KT P6SM SCT090 BNK200

FM231400 22008KT P6SM SCT040 BKN250



3.1 - TAF Reports *Example*

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BNK050CB

PROB30 - A 30% probability

3.1 - TAF Reports

Example

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BNK050CB

- PROB30 A 30% probability
- 2121/2303 From the 22nd at 2100 to the 23rd at 0300

3.1 - TAF Reports Example

PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BNK050CB

- PROB30 A 30% probability
- 2121/2303 From the 22nd at 2100 to the 23rd at 0300
- 4SM visibility at 4 statute miles

3.1 - TAF Reports

Example

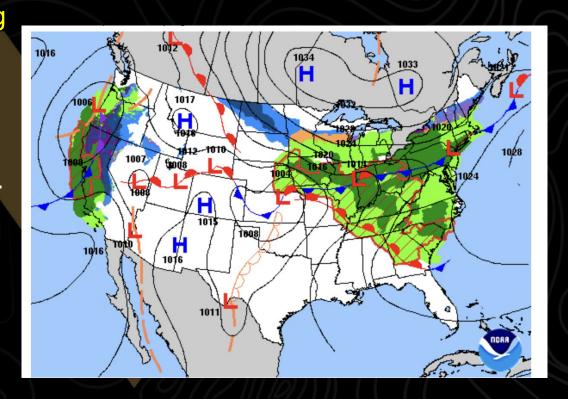
PROB30 2221/2303 4SM TSRA BNK050CB

- PROB30 A 30% probability
- 2121/2303 From the 22nd at 2100 to the 23rd at 0300
- 4SM visibility at 4 statute miles
- TSRA BNK050CB Thunderstorms & Rain with Broken Clouds at 5000 feet - Cumulonimbus clouds.



Propwash Drone Solutions LLC

- A weather or Surface Prog chart is a general forecast for surface conditions.
- They can be found on the aviationweather.gov page.
- Prog charts are generated by the national Weather Prediction Center.



Prog forecasts come in multiple forms and are updated at different intervals.

Product	Frequency	Times
Current Analysis	3 hours	every 3 hours about 90 minutes after valid time
12 hour Forecast	4 times daily	~0200 (valid 12Z), 0400 (18Z), 1300 (00Z), and 1430 (06Z)
24 hour Forecast	4 times daily	~0430 (valid 00Z), 0700 (06Z), 1330 (12Z), and 1930 (18Z)
36 hour Forecast	Twice daily	~0730 (valid 12Z), 1930 (00Z)
48 hour Forecast	Twice daily	~0730 (valid 00Z), 1930 (12Z)
60 hour Forecast	Twice daily	~0730 (valid 00Z), 1930 (12Z)
3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 day Forecasts	Once daily	\sim 1400 (valid 12Z). The 3 day forecast is actually a 3 1/2 day forecast

The symbols in the legend denote fronts, precipitation types, and pressure systems.



- Valid Through: 0600 Zulu
- On April 15th, 2012
- 24-hour Significant Weather Prog
- Based on a standard barometric pressure (in millibars) at 24,000'

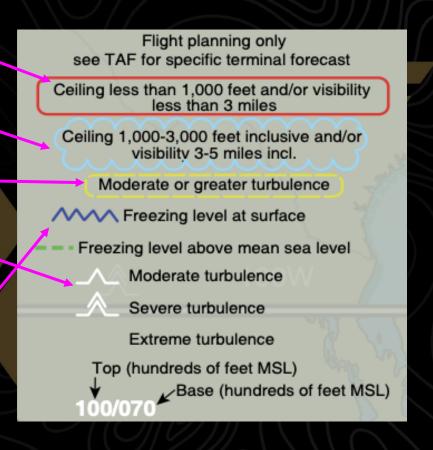
Sun Apr 15 2012 24 HR SIG WX PROG LOW LVL SFC-400MB

Below VFR Minimums - IFR Areas

Marginal VFR Area (depends on airspace/field)

Concerns regarding turbulence

Freezing Level MSL (if Cyan it will be at a specific altitude.





What's common?

They all tell you the weather at a particular airport.

How do they differ?

- If there is a human involved.
- If it's automated
- How often the reports are taken (hourly or by the minute)
- What they report
- Whether they can provide extra information (NOTAMS)
- Who is responsible for the system (FAA/National Weather Service)

ATIS is a continuous broadcast of recorded non-control information in a terminal area.

- Human's add to and monitor it
- It is intended to relieve frequency congestion by automating repetitive but essential information.

EXAMPLE:

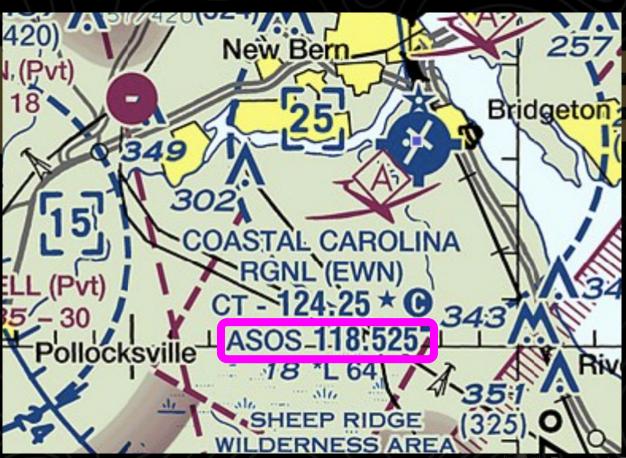
"Los Angeles information Alfa. One three zero zero Coordinated Universal Time. Weather, measured ceiling two thousand overcast, visibility three, haze, smoke, temperature seven one, dew point five seven, wind two five zero at five, altimeter two niner niner six. I-L-S Runway Two Five Left approach in use, Runway Two Five Right closed, advise you have Alfa."

course (499) 068 UC 093° 485 plant 1 126/4 133.35 golf CHARLOTTE course 1035

ASOS

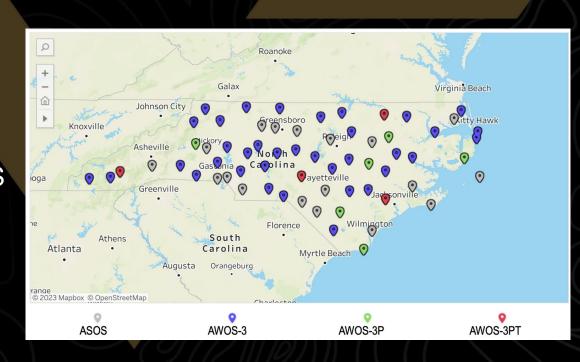
- Usually monitored and controlled by the National Weather Service (NWS).
- ASOS helps gather weather information for both aviation and nonaviation purposes.
- Robust system that can tell things like barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, visibility, sky condition, ceiling height, and precipitation.

ASOS



AWOS

- Operated and controlled by the FAA
- Automated report on the minute.
- Different levels of AWOS determine what type of weather it can report



AWOS



Why is it important to know which type of aviation weather system you are referencing?



Why is it important to know which type of aviation weather system you are referencing?

Knowing the type of aviation weather system helps ensure accurate flight planning. Each system provides different information and mixing them up can lead to poor weather decisions.

How can a drone pilot use automated weather services to their advantage?



How can a drone pilot use automated weather services to their advantage?

Drone pilots can use automated weather services to plan safer, more efficient flights. These services give real-time data like wind, visibility, and temperature, helping pilots avoid hazardous conditions and choose the best time to fly.

Unit 3 Weather – 3.1 Review Quiz

- 3.1 Sources of Weather QUIZ
- This quiz contains 37 questions.
 - You may take it as many times as you like.
 - The order of questions are randomized each time.
 - The large majority of the questions are worded exactly as they appear on the exam.