

## Chapter 13

# Aviation Weather Services

### Introduction

In aviation, weather service is a combined effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Defense (DOD), other aviation groups, and individuals. Because of the increasing need for worldwide weather services, foreign weather organizations also provide vital input.

While weather forecasts are not 100 percent accurate, meteorologists, through careful scientific study and computer modeling, have the ability to predict weather patterns, trends, and characteristics with increasing accuracy. Through a complex system of weather services, government agencies, and independent weather observers, pilots and other aviation professionals receive the benefit of this vast knowledge base in the form of up-to-date weather reports and forecasts. These reports and forecasts enable pilots to make informed decisions regarding weather and flight safety before and during a flight.

Symbol	Meaning
R	Rain
R+V	Rain showers
S	Snow
S+V	Snow showers
T	Thunderstorm
Intensity	
-	Light
(none)	Moderate
+	Heavy
++	Very Heavy
X	Intense
XX	Extreme
Contraction	
PPINE	Radar is operating normally but there are echoes being detected.
PPINA	Radar observation is not available.
PPIOM	Radar is inoperative or out of service.
AUTO	Automated radar report from WSR-88D.

