



Harry Reid International Airport
Clark County Department of Aviation – Rosemary A. Vassiliadis, Director



NEWS RELEASE

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Beating the Heat: How LAS Keeps Operations Safe and Passengers Comfortable during the Vegas hot summer months

As temperatures climb across the Las Vegas Valley, Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) takes proactive steps to ensure safe operations and a comfortable travel experience. From the runway to the terminal, the airport implements a range of measures designed to protect passengers and staff during Southern Nevada's hottest months.

Adapting Aviation Operations to Heat Conditions

Elevated temperatures reduce air density, which means aircraft require longer distances to achieve lift. To accommodate these conditions, Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) works closely with airline partners and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to adjust flight operations based on real-time weather data. LAS's primary runways are constructed with concrete, which is more durable than asphalt and better suited for sustained heat exposure—supporting consistent operations during the hottest days. Notably, Runway 8L/26R at LAS is the **third-longest commercial runway in the United States at more than 14,500 feet**, providing the extended distance some aircraft require during high-temperature conditions. Additionally, FAA air traffic controllers may implement a configuration change that routes departures to the east, helping aircraft avoid the mountainous terrain to the west and improving climb performance in warm weather.

Advanced Meteorological Coordination

Serving as the official meteorological observation station for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Las Vegas, LAS hosts a network of climate sensors that provide critical data. Meteorologists deliver forecasts to the airport daily, increasing frequency during severe weather events. This information is vital for air traffic controllers to make informed decisions regarding runway usage and flight paths.

For more on the NWS operations at LAS, watch the video: [National Weather Station at Harry Reid Airport](#)

Innovative Cooling Solutions Within the Terminal

To ensure passenger comfort, LAS utilizes state-of-the-art cooling technologies:

- **Central Plant Cooling Towers:** These systems utilize miles of chilled water piping to dissipate heat from the terminal buildings, maintaining a comfortable indoor environment.
- **Remote Temperature Monitoring:** A building automation system allows HVAC technicians to monitor and adjust temperatures throughout the airport from centralized computer stations, enhancing energy efficiency and response times.
- **Jet Bridge Enhancements:** Passenger boarding bridges are coated with a reflective ceramic material to reduce heat absorption. Additionally, new air conditioning units have been installed to cool both the bridges and aircraft cabins during boarding.

- **Air Circulation Improvements:** High-volume, low-speed fans have been deployed in high-traffic areas, such as the C Concourse and D gates tram station, to augment air circulation and support the HVAC system.

For a comprehensive overview of these cooling initiatives, visit the LAS blog: [Cooling LAS During the Hot Vegas Summer](#).

Summer Travel Tips

For those traveling this summer, LAS encourages passengers to stay hydrated by drinking water regularly, wearing lightweight and breathable clothing to remain cool. Travelers should also plan and allow extra time for parking and security screening.

For flight information updates, concessions information, parking details, and travel tips, visit www.HarryReidAirport.com and follow [@LASAirport](#) on social media.

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About Harry Reid International Airport

Harry Reid International Airport (LAS) and the four general aviation facilities including Henderson Executive Airport, North Las Vegas Airport, Jean Sport Aviation Center and Overton-Perkins Field, are owned and operated by the Clark County Department of Aviation. For more information on LAS, or the full system of airports, please visit HarryReidAirport.com. For timely information and airport updates, please visit our social media channels [@LASAirport](#).