

EAGOSH Recommendation No 5

Lightning and thunderstorms at airports

Lightning- and thunderstorms, also high winds have a major impact on many airport systems and on the safety of ground staff around the world.

The European Aviation Group for Occupational Safety and Health recommends to all organizations at airports to implement an

ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM

1. **Airport Authorities are to institute arrangement with the Meteorological Office for the receipt of stormwarnings.**

Strong winds, 25 knots upwards!

Lightning storms in close proximity to the airport, 3 to 10 miles!

2. **Airport Authorities should ensure that an alert and warning procedure with all ramp organizations is in place.**

Communication of the declaration / cancellation of storm alert and warning is to be achieved by:

- Internal Computer information system, or
- Ground to ground communication, or
- Telephone / Telex, or
- Airport emergency- / warning- / beam lights etc.

3. **Duty Managers of the ramp organization must advise all personnel who may be working on the ramp.**

This includes:

**Airline
Passenger Handling
Ramp staff
Aircraft maintenance
Loaders
etc.**

**Fuelling-Organizations
Aircraft cleaning
Catering
Freight / Cargo**

4. Precautions and Cautions

When thunderstorms come within seven to ten miles:
Stopping the use of headsets for ground to flight deck communication, do not touch metallic ground support equipment etc.

However, when thunderstorms come within three miles:
Fuelling operation should be suspended and all employees should start to find shelter (aircraft inside, car, buildings etc.).

Because of the variation of circumstances which differ from airport to airport, detailed local procedures have to be worked out.

Reference:

IATA Airport Handling Manual, 24th Edition, 2004: AHM 630, Chapter 6, "Severe Weather Operation". (Rev. Feb 04)

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