

Finding Reliable Ways to Check for TFRs


This document has been published to notify all University of Colorado Boulder Flight Operations students, PICs, staff, and personnel about a discrepancy found in the ways which were previously taught for checking temporary flight restrictions (TFRs). The current and most common training protocol and methodology for checking for TFRs is to use www.skyvector.com with layers selected to display TFRs. It is then taught to verify that the TFR layers are being displayed by zooming out to see that TFRs exist in common locations like DC for example. It is also taught that on Skyvector TFRs have two notations: a red layer will indicate the TFR is active and a yellow layer will indicate a TFR will be active in the near future. It is also taught in the ground school curriculum that there are other sources to verify TFRs, like sua.faa.gov, tfr.faa.gov, and third party applications like foreflight. As of January 28th, 2021, it has been discovered that, on at least one occasion, www.skyvector.com did not properly depict an active TFR which was shown on tfr.faa.gov. This was also not properly displayed on sua.faa.gov.

It must be clear to all pilots that tfr.faa.gov is the run explicitly by the FAA in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and is the only true place to get accurate and completely reliable information regarding TFRs. The attached quote is shown at the bottom of the tfr.faa.gov website: "This site is informational in nature and is designed to assist pilots and aircrews for flight planning and familiarization. It may be used in conjunction with other pre-flight sources needed to satisfy all the requirements of 14 CFR 91.103". A lot of the additional websites pull data from tfr.faa.gov but some get this data from other less reliable sources. With the recent errors with different sources not displaying TFRs which were published on the tfr.faa.gov website it is now highly recommended to use tfr.faa.gov to satisfy the requirement for checking and avoiding for TFRs for UCB UAS flight operations.

The following paragraph will go over how to check for TFRs on the tfr.faa.gov website. Some of the color codes written in parentheses next to statements correspond to screen shot photos displayed on the following page:

To check for TFRs using the tfr.faa.gov website navigate to it using the link. This link will take you to a page which lists all TFRs in the US in word ID format by order of date. To find TFRs by controlling center agency or state click the drop-down menus at the top of the screen (blue), select your desired controlling center or state and right click the go button next to the drop-down tab (orange). This will pull up information for the related area. To get more information about a TFR right click on the NOTAM ID string, in the NOTAM column, which is typically a number followed by a dash and four other numbers (green). This additional information will give you active times, altitudes, and locations of the TFR. If you would like to view TFRs in visual format go to the top of the page and right click on the TFR Map tab (red). On the upper left-hand corner of this new map page you can select a Zoom In tab or Zoom Out tab by clicking on either icon (yellow). These will allow you to zoom in or out respectfully by clicking on the map with your mouse (this website works best on a computer). To search by controlling agency or state you can view the yellow column on the right hand side of the webpage next to the map. Select the drop-down menu for a center or a state you wish to view (purple). Then right click the go button next to the drop down menu you have selected from and the map will zoom in to that area (light blue).

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html

 Federal Aviation Administration

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Center
 State
 Type
 WED, 17 FEB 2021 5:58 UTC

[Reset Filter](#)

Click column headings to sort data.

Date	NOTAM	Facility	State	Type	Description	Zoom
02/16/2021	1/4372	ZMP	MN	HAZARDS	HIBBING, MN, Thursday, February 18, 2021 UTC	
02/16/2021	1/4364	ZAB	NM	HAZARDS	GALLUP, NM, Thursday, February 18, 2021 UTC	
02/16/2021	1/4131	ZMP	MN	HAZARDS	KEEWATIN, MN, Thursday, February 18, 2021 UTC	
02/16/2021	1/4130	ZMP	MN	HAZARDS	ELY, MN, Thursday, February 18, 2021 UTC	
02/16/2021	1/4071	ZAU	MI	VIP	KALAMAZOO, MI, Thursday, February 18, 2021 Local	
02/16/2021	1/4069	ZOB	MI	VIP	KALAMAZOO, MI, Thursday, February 18, 2021 Local	
02/15/2021	1/3892	ZTL	GA	SECURITY	Macon, GA, Thursday, February 18, 2021 Local	
02/12/2021	1/3501	ZDC	VA	SPACE OPERATIONS	Wallops Flight Facility, VA, Monday, February 22, 2021 UTC	
02/12/2021	1/3500	ZDC	VA	SPACE OPERATIONS	Wallops Flight Facility, VA, Sunday, February 21, 2021 UTC	
02/12/2021	1/3499	ZDC	VA	SPACE OPERATIONS	Wallops Flight Facility, VA, Saturday, February 20, 2021 UTC	
02/12/2021	1/3415	ZAB	TX	SECURITY	Van Horn, TX, Sunday, February 14, 2021 through Sunday, February 21, 2021 Local	
02/12/2021	1/3414	ZAB	TX	SECURITY	Van Horn, TX, Sunday, February 14, 2021 through Sunday, February 21, 2021 Local	

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Select Center to zoom

Select State to zoom

Select Scale to zoom

Map Layers

- ☒ NOTAMs
- ☒ Centers
- ☒ Political Boundaries

