

Security Changes

Security measures at all the nation's air carrier airports and with all the nation's air carriers remain at a heightened state. Travelers now and for the foreseeable future will need to know the following:

1. Airports cannot allow unauthorized vehicles at the curb. When you come to the Sioux Falls Regional Airport, you can unload at the curb as long as someone is with the car. After unloading, the car must immediately be moved to the parking lot, to a metered space or away from the terminal. Those arriving alone must park in the lot or to a metered space.
2. The short term lot has been reopened.
3. For the safety and security of the traveling public, additional security officers are on duty at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport.
4. The airlines are asking that you check in at least 1 1/2 hours in advance of your flight. The extra time allows them to perform needed security measures. One measure involves checked baggage. Your checked baggage may be hand searched. If for some reason they choose your bags to be hand searched, it will take extra time.
5. The airlines now have a 30 minute cut-off for checking in. If you have not checked in by 30 minutes prior to scheduled departure, you will not make your flight.
6. Only passengers with boarding passes are allowed in the gate area. You can no longer check in at the gate in Sioux Falls. You must come to the ticket counter. Since only passengers with tickets and boarding passes are allowed on the concourse, people accompanying outbound passengers will have to say their good-byes in the lobby. Those meeting passengers also will meet incoming passengers in the lobby or baggage claim area.
7. There are stricter rules for what is allowed in carry-on bags. You are still allowed (at least at this time) one carry-on bag. However, the bag cannot contain any type of knife or martial arts device, no bludgeon-type items, no flammable liquids, no ammunition, no disabling or incapacitating items like tear gas, mace, or pepper spray, and no other sharp item like an ice pick, scissors or straight razor as well as no toy weapons or anything that can be used as a weapon. Also, you should be prepared to turn on any electronic item like a cell phone or laptop. The screeners will be looking for metal items, among other things. The sensitivity has been increased on the metal detector to detect even smaller metal objects. You can save yourself time and embarrassment going through the metal detector if you do not wear steel-toed shoes, have a large belt buckle, metal hair clip or other metal item that would have to be removed to pass through the metal detector. A complete list of prohibited and permitted items is available at <http://www.tsa.gov>.
8. If you have a medical condition that requires you to carry a needle and/or syringe on your person or in your carry-on baggage, you must also have the medication that requires such injection on your person. The medication must be packaged with a pharmaceutical label or professionally printed label identifying the medication.
9. Another reason for arriving at the airport early is because more passengers will be checked with the hand wand after passing through the metal detector.

10. Take the time to check local newspapers, public service announcements, and web sites to determine if new procedures have been instituted.
11. Control all carry-on bags. Never leave anything unattended as it could be subjected to tampering.
12. Never carry anything onboard the aircraft for another person, especially for someone you do not know.
13. Report any unattended packages or baggage anywhere in the terminal or on the airplane to airport security or airline personnel.
14. Finally, if you notice anything suspicious while at the airport, please help us by reporting it to Airport Security or a Police Officer.

Further travel information can be found at the Transportation Security Administration's travel website: <http://www.tsatraveltips.us>.

These measures are now in effect and will be in force indefinitely. We regret any inconvenience this may cause, but be assured the Sioux Falls Regional Airport is committed to the safety and security of those using our airport. We join with all other airports across the country and with all US air carriers in implementing these measures which we, the FAA, and the air carriers feel are necessary in light of the possible terrorist threat to our homeland.

Delta Airlines Returns to Sioux Falls

Comair, a Delta Airlines Connection, began service to Sioux Falls on July 29. Delta Airlines had previously served Sioux Falls until the mid-90's.

Comair operates 50-seat Canadair Regional Jets three times a day to Delta's Cincinnati hub. As their #2 hub, Delta Airlines and their Delta Connection carriers operate over 500 daily flights from Cincinnati to over 150 US and international destinations. With Delta Connection's new service, Sioux Falls travelers have even more options when going east, south or southeast.

To promote the new service, Delta Airlines is offering special fares of \$89-139 each way to selected destinations and for a limited time. Check with your favorite local travel agent, call Delta at 1-800-221-1212 or log on to www.delta.com for flight times and fares.

2004 Boardings on the Rebound

Through June 2004 boardings at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport are almost 10,000 passengers ahead of the same period last year at 155,100. This represents an increase of 6.8%.

June boardings were exceptionally robust at 18.1% over June 2003. Every month this year has had an increase. May showed an 8.5% increase, April was up 4.0%, March was up 4.2%, February was up 5.0% and January was up 1.8%.

Northwest and Northwest AirlinK lead local airlines in market share at 44.5% followed by United Express with 39.2% and American Connection with 12.5%. There have been 4,015 charter passengers. In less than 2 full months of service, Allegiant Air has carried 1,922 passengers on their twice weekly Las Vegas nonstops.