

FAA Safety Briefing Mar/Apr

Flight Plan Changes in Effect for DC FRZ

The FAA will transfer responsibility for the filing of Flight Restricted Zone (FRZ) flight plans from Flight Service to the Flight Data Unit located at the Washington Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) on March 29, 2018. The transfer of this responsibility will increase security in the validation of flights allowed to operate in the FRZ. Pilots will need to use a new telephone number to call in a FRZ flight plan.

Pilots flying in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, designated as both a Special Flight Rules Area (SFRA) and a FRZ, are under additional security measures to protect the nation's capital. The SFRA is an area where the identification, location and control of aircraft is required and considered national defense airspace. The SFRA consists of a lateral 30-nm radius of the DCA VOR/DME and is clearly marked on the Washington DC sectional chart and the associated terminal area chart. The FRZ, which is subject to additional restrictions, is located within the SFRA and covers approximately the area within a 13-15 nm radius of Washington, DC.

Before departure, IFR and VFR pilots wishing to fly through or within the FRZ, or depart or arrive at College Park, Potomac Airfield, or Washington Executive/Hyde Field airports currently must file a FRZ flight plan with the Washington Hub Flight Service Station. Effective March 29, 2018 at 0400z, the Washington ARTCC Flight Data Unit will file pilot's FRZ flight plans. These flight plans are only accepted after it has been determined that the aircraft is on the applicable waiver list or the pilot has provided the appropriate identification. Pilots will not be able to submit any flight plans to or from a FRZ airport online. To receive search and rescue services, pilots must file a separate VFR flight plan with Flight Service.

Check NOTAMs for updated information and the phone number to file a FRZ flight plan. In addition, the DC Special Flight Rules Area course was updated to reflect this change. For further information on training required to fly in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, visit the FAA Safety [website](https://www.faasafety.gov/gslac/ALC/CourseLanding.aspx?cid=405).

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