

Kasia Badger

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Private Pilot Research - Airport Operations (NOTAMs)

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Notices to Airmen (NOTAM) is used to disseminate information critical to flight that was unable to be published on time. Because of how vital NOTAMs can be for safety, pilots always check all NOTAMs before flying, which can be found in the Notices to Airmen Publication (NTAP).

Additionally, NOTAMs can contain the following information:

- Hazards, such as airshows, parachuting, kite flying, and rocket launches nearby
- Flights by important individuals nearby
- Military exercises with resulting airspace restrictions
- Temporary obstacles near airfields
- Passage of bird flocks through airspace (BIRDTAM)
- Volcanic ash or other dust contamination within airspace (ASHTAM)

The four categories of NOTAMs are the following: D NOTAM, FDC NOTAM, Pointer NOTAM, and Military NOTAM. However, the most important for Private Pilots to be familiar with are the D NOTAMs and FDC NOTAMs. Type D NOTAMs provide information about all navigational facilities that are part of the NAS and all public use airports listed in the Chart Supplement, including taxiway closures, personnel and equipment near runways, and lighting aid outages not affecting instrument approaches. On the other hand, Type FDC NOTAMs are issued by the National Flight Data Center

and contain information about charts, procedures, and airspace usage mostly related to IFR flight procedures and Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR).