



METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION

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Airside Operations Department

In December of 2004, our Airport Operations department looked at the SAI Weather Advisor software to augment the current ASOS text display which was plagued with several inadequacies. It was extremely difficult to read from across the room, the staff relied on a temperature conversion chart taped along side the monitor, winds were displayed in minute intervals and no timely display of past conditions could be consulted.

When the new box arrived I plugged the device into our current display and keyed in our airport configuration. That was it. I was amazed at how simple such a powerful tool could be. Our staff was instantly hooked. No other system in our office provided so much information without the typical learning curve. It was an instant success.

Most users are probably familiar with this as a tool for pilots. As airport operators we currently utilize the system on a daily basis for the following tasks:

- Providing wind direction and speed for the aircraft run-up pad.
- Airport Fire response to smoke and fuel spills.
- Wind and temperature check for maintenance and construction crews.
- Monitoring of wind limits for the outdoor people movers.
- Recording weather conditions in MSP's required Daily Operations Log.
- Protecting the ILS critical areas from airport vehicle movements at 800' and 2.

The benefits of a graphical interface over the previous text display can easily be realized by the ability to be read from across the room. The system is very self-explanatory and user-friendly with large text, graphic wind indication from the past five minutes, trend arrows and both Celsius and Fahrenheit temperatures in the display. The Weather Advisor does much more than just present a picture. After an aircraft prematurely departed the paved surface this past March, the operations manager was able to use the reporting features to provide data for a preliminary investigative report to our FAA Airport Safety Certification Inspector. It has also contributed in the reduction of phone calls into the tower for wind checks. Using the website, we can share the data with other airport departments without congesting the frequency and phone lines.

The SAI Weather Advisor System has proven itself as an extremely stable product with only one service issue in over a year. I have purchased many systems for our Operations Center and few can claim the simplicity, reliability and affordability in a truly elegant display.

We look forward to the future using the SAI Weather Advisor.

Kyle Scapple
Airside Operations System Administrator
Minneapolis-St Paul Intl' Airport

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