

Fairbanks Flight Service

Spring 2026 Update

Rami Nasser & Benjamin Eidem
General Aviation Association Meeting

April 23, 2026



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Agenda

- Staffing/Training Update
- New WX Cams
- Master Flight Plans
- River Ice / Breakup Season
- Springtime Reminders



Staffing / Training

As of April 3:

- **34 total** controllers based out of FAI Hub
- 9 on remote site rotation
 - 6 at BRW, 3 at ORT (opens May 1)
- 20 full time CPC at FAI -- Min staffing 16 -- Target 22+
 - 2 of those fill in at ORT, OME
- 5 trainees at FAI (0 FD, 0 PF, 5 IF)
 - NOTAM transition is beginning. Taking over Lower-48 by 2028??
- 3 Supervisors – Target 4
- 1 trainee at FSS Academy in ENA

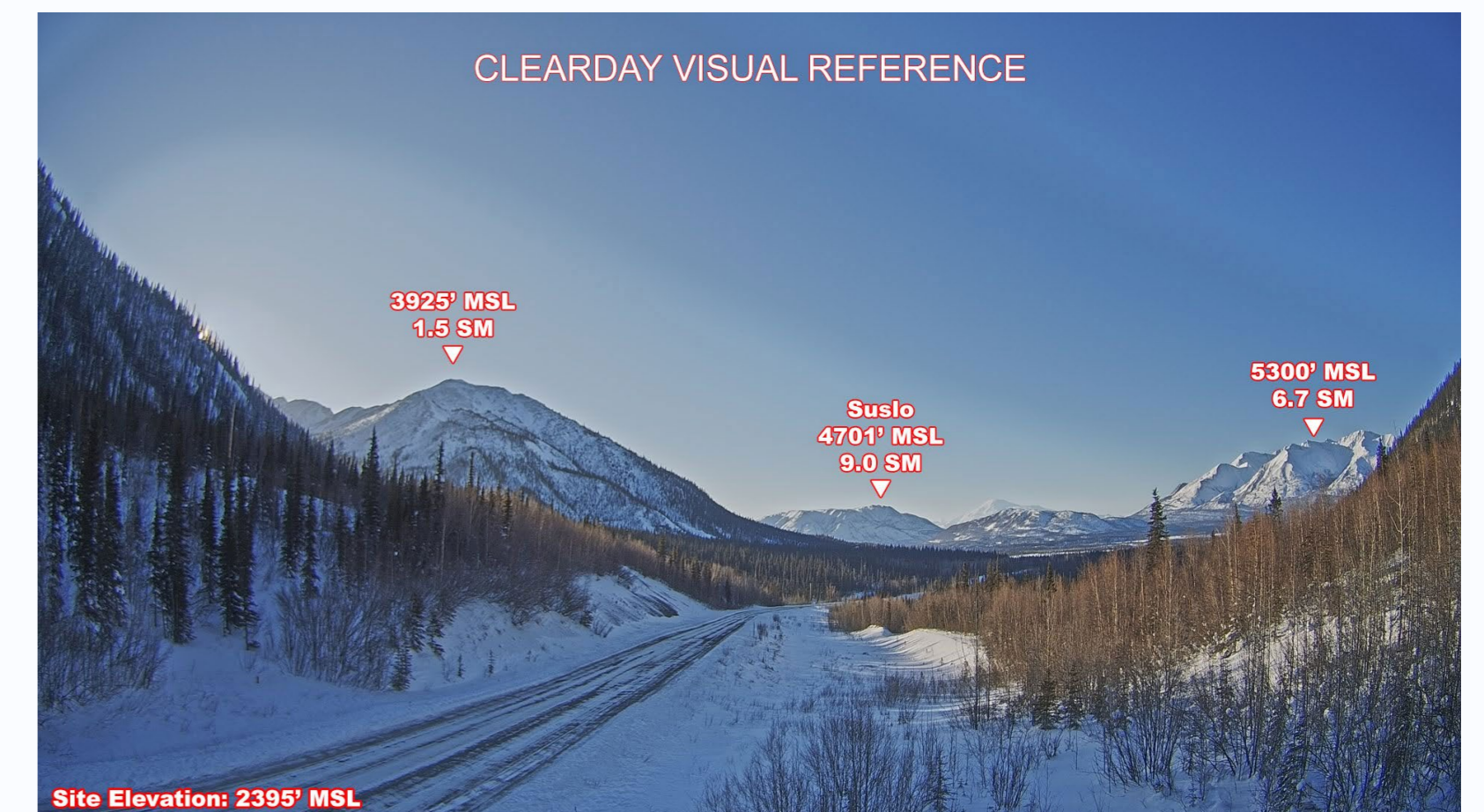


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Weather Camera Update

- New weather resources are coming to AK
 - Funding for 110 WX Stations, 64 Cams in Alaska
- Cameras Featuring "Fisheye" lens
 - N/S/E/W viewpoints
 - Full 360° coverage
- May have to re-train your eye for new images
 - May be a different angles upon replacement
 - Distant objects may appear smaller
 - Edges of photographs may be distorted

www.weathercams.faa.gov



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◀ Master Flight Plan (MFP)

- Please renew your MFPs every 2 years
 - Outdated MFPs may limit our capabilities / your benefits.
- Common changes include:
 - Emergency contact information
 - Change of ownership
 - New avionics / equipment
 - Adding GPS Tracking devices
- Benefits include:
 - Faster flight plan filing over phone or radio
 - Enhanced Special Reporting Service
 - Timely and Accurate Search and Rescue



Ice Breakup Season

It has been a long winter. You can help the NWS forecast river flooding.

- Increased risk of flooding exists IF:
 - April temperature stays cold, with quick warm-up in May
- Current forecasts predict "normal" breakup
 - However, snowpack in Interior AK is above normal
- PIREPS are requested for Ice Jams & related phenomena
- Learn more: Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center
- www.weather.gov/aprfc



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Spring/Summer Reminders

- Construction Season!
 - Check NOTAMs
- Thunderstorm Season!
 - Submit PIREPs, Check Weather Frequently
- Military Training Season!
 - Check NOTAMs, Stay Vigilant
- Wildfire Season!
 - Submit PIREPs, Check TFR's

Red Flag 2026:
APR 20 – MAY 1
JUN 1 – 12
AUG 17 – 28



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◀ Thank You!



Contact Info:

State of Alaska Pilot Weather Briefing: **833-AK-BRIEF (833-252-7433)**

- Option 1 for Kenai, 2 for Fairbanks, 3 for Juneau.

FAI FSS Briefing Line:

- Toll Free: (866) 248-6516 Local #: (907) 474-0137

NATCA Pilot Outreach:

- faifsspilots@gmail.com Questions, Tours, Outreach, etc.



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