

General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC)

Targeted PIREP Project

Aviation Weather Community Forum

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Objective

- Increase quality and quantity of real time weather observations
- Focus on GA fatal accident causes related to weather encounters.
- Targeted PIREPs will be used by:
 - The Aviation Weather Center to improve the quality of the their forecasts (e.g. AIRMETS, SIGMETS).
 - Pilots in their preflight and enroute weather decision making.

The intended outcome is to:

- Reduce unintentional VFR flights into IMC
- Reduce the overuse of “VFR not recommended”
- More accurately identify areas conducive to airframe icing.
- Capture and disseminate areas of ice-free alternative routing (reports of no ice).

Background

- Project was initiated by the GAJSC and AOPA Air Safety Foundation.
- A working group (WG) was formed to explore ways to target information collection on areas that pose the most risk.
- The WG is populated with members from ATO, AOV, AFS, AAI, AOPA, National Weather Service (NWS), NWS's Aviation Weather Center (AWC).
- The WG was tasked with designing a “prototype program” involving one ARTCC and adjoining Terminal facilities to target solicitation of PIREPs during specific weather conditions.

2008 “Project PIREP” test

Established a 90-day trial program at one center (Seattle)
and adjoining TRACONs.

Seattle TRACON

Portland TRACON

Spokane TRACON

Whidbey Island TRACON

Chinook TRACON

This trial period ran from 1/7/2008 to 4/7/2008.

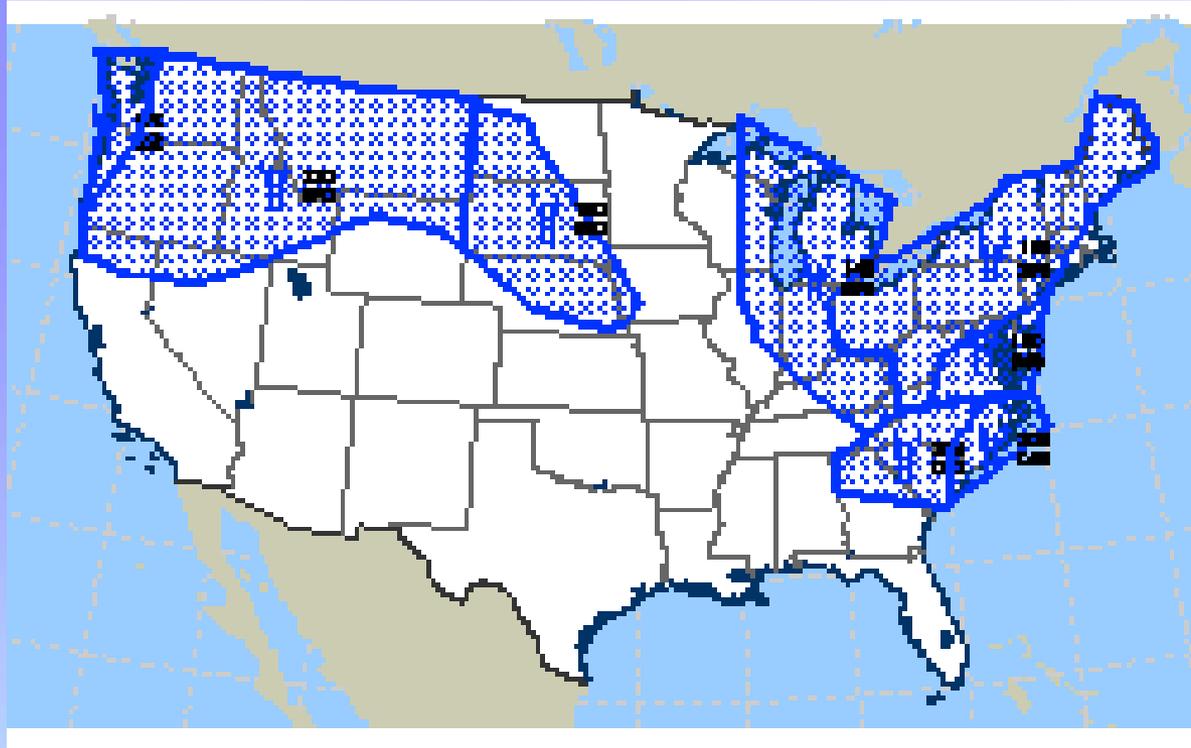
2009“Project PIREP” test

Establish two 90-day trial programs at Seattle and Boston ARTCCs

This trial period began January 15th, 2009.

Ends today! (April 15, 2009)

SEA UA /OV SEA160030/TM 1825/FL150/TP B737/TA M22/IC LGT RIME 150-185/RM DURGC -ZSE
PWT UA /OV SEA310025 /TM 2004 /FL100 /TP B733 /TA M13 /IC LGT RIME 100-070

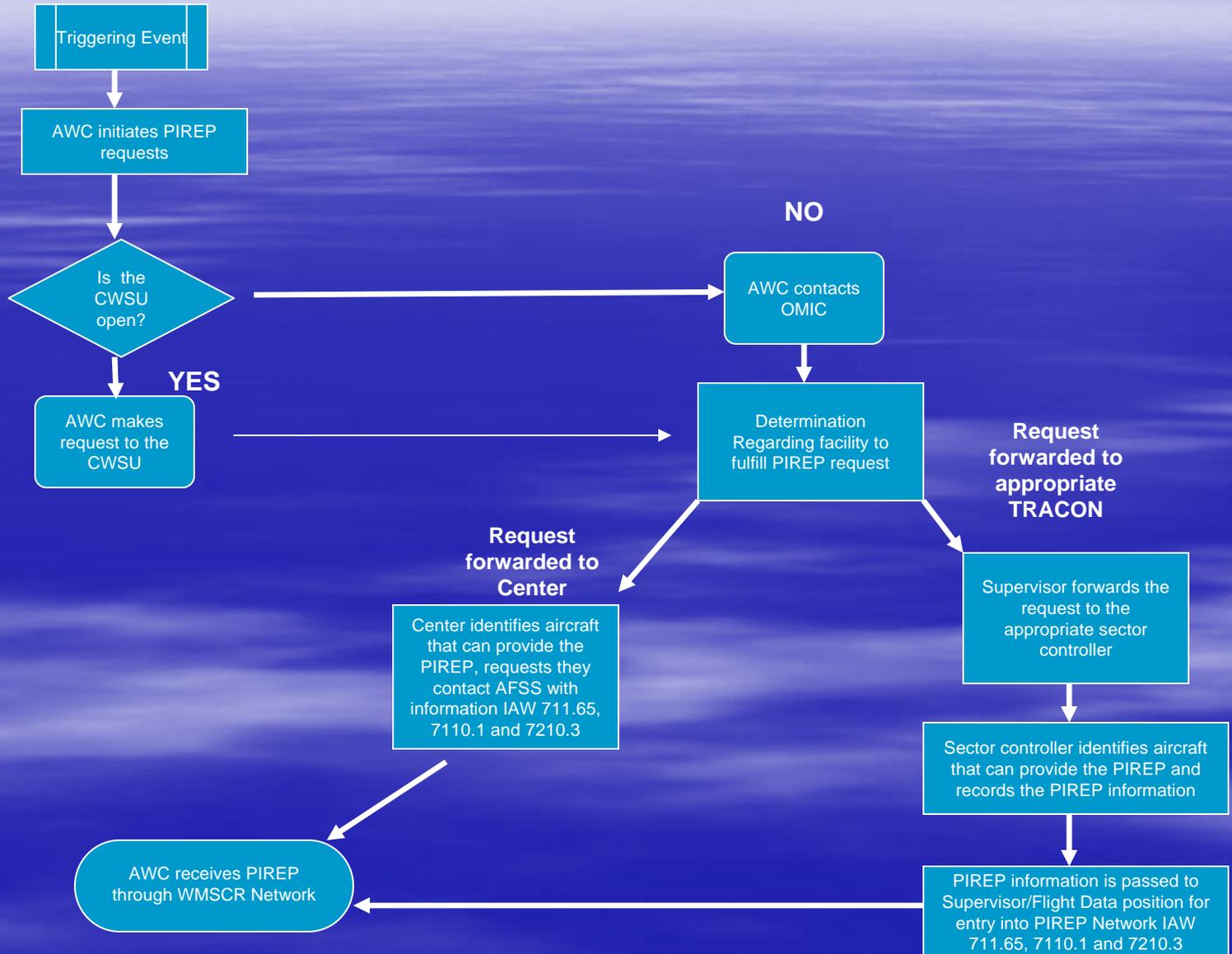


PVD UA /OV PVD090005 /TM 1842 /FL060 /TP PA31 /TA M11 /IC LGT RIME /RM /FL 040/TA M05/IC
LGT RIME/FM PVD

Proposed Program -Triggers

- AWC will initiate the targeted PIREP request during triggering events/conditions such as:
 - Low ceilings, restrictions to visibility
 - Mountain obscuration
 - Potential icing conditions
- Request controllers solicit PIREPs (multiple sectors, more than once per hour)

Targeted PIREP Process Flow Chart



Targeted PIREP Request Frequency



- Request controllers solicit PIREPs for targeted area at a rate of 3 per hour.

Proposed PIREP Program Metrics

- Measure for an increase in PIREPs entering the system during periods of dangerous weather conditions.
- Measure timeliness of PIREP distribution.
- Measure for an increase in reports of areas of ice-free alternative routing (negative PIREPs).
- NCEP AWC will use existing weather product verification process to measure for increase in forecast quality.
- Evaluate controller workload and radio congestion issues.
- Analyze the frequency in which the AWC requests additional PIREPs.



Questions?