

Impacts of the "Snowtober" Storm of 29-30 October 2011: An Airline Operations Perspective

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The winter storm of 29-30 October 2011 created nearly unprecedented impacts to airline operations in the Northeast, causing failures of navigation equipment which effectively shut down the New York City area airports for hours. Dozens of flights diverted to alternate airports throughout the region. In particular, Bradley International Airport near Hartford, CT was overwhelmed by over 25 diverted flights just as the storm entered an extended period of heavy snow and high winds, causing extreme difficulty for the customers and crew members aboard those flights.

This presentation will discuss the challenges associated with winter operations at an airline and examine the 29-30 October event to identify the impacts of observed and forecast weather.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Tom Lloyd is Manager, Meteorology & Route Optimization at JetBlue Airways, working out of JetBlue's corporate headquarters and System Operations Center (SOC) in Long Island City, Queens, NY. Tom's responsibilities include oversight of weather forecast services, policy and procedure at JetBlue, as well as the air traffic control coordination function within JetBlue's SOC.

Tom is active in the weather and air traffic communities, notably as the Industry Lead for the Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) Weather Evaluation Team. He is also a member of the Airlines For America (formerly Air Transport Association) Meteorology Work Group and AMS (American Meteorological Society), and has presented at the last several AMS Aviation & Range Meteorology symposia.

A native of Milwaukee, WI, Tom studied meteorology at St. Cloud State University before obtaining the FAA Aircraft Dispatcher certificate and

embarking on an airline career. Prior to joining JetBlue in 2007, he was the Manager of SOC at Skyway Airlines/Midwest Connect. Tom resides in Fairfield, CT with his wife and 8-year-old son.