



# TUS Emergency Contingency Plan

# TUCSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (TUS) EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN

The Tucson International Airport (TUS), operated by the Tucson Airport Authority (TAA), has prepared this Emergency Contingency Plan pursuant to §42301 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012. Questions regarding this plan can be directed to Adam Merrill [amerrill@flytucson.com](mailto:amerrill@flytucson.com). The Tucson International Airport (TUS) is filing this plan with the Department of Transportation because:

1. It is a commercial service airport.
2. This airport may be used by an air carrier described in USC 42301(a)(1) for diversions.

The TUS Emergency Contingency Plan describes how, following excessive tarmac delays and to the extent practical, TUS will:

- Provide for deplanement of passengers.
- Provide for the sharing of facilities and make gates available at the airport; and,
- Provide a sterile area following excessive tarmac delays for passengers who have not yet cleared United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processes.

TUS has facility constraints that limit its ability to accommodate diverted flights or maintain the airport's safe operation, and strongly encourages aircraft operators to contact TUS at (520) 573-8111 for prior coordination of diverted flights, except in the case of a declared in-flight emergency.

Specific facility constraints include the following:

- Limited gate and ramp parking space.
  - The terminal ramp is not designed to accommodate widebody aircraft (ADG IV or larger).
- Limited resources after hours.
  - Only one Fixed Based Operator (FBO) is 24 hours and Swissport fueling has no employees on TUS property after 20:00 MST<sup>1</sup> and will require call-back.
- Limited ground-based equipment to help deplane / enplane passengers.
  - TAA does not own or operate any ground-based equipment. Air carriers must provide all necessary equipment and staff.

Prior aircraft operator notification during diversion events allows TUS staff to prepare for requests, provide assistance, and if necessary, issues NOTAMs regarding its ability to accommodate diverted flights. To ensure the safe and efficient operation of the airport, and its ability to serve the civil aviation needs of the public during irregular operations events.

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<sup>1</sup> Times are subject to change.

Tucson International Airport – Contact Information	
Airport Name:	Tucson International Airport (TUS)
Name and Title of Person Preparing this Plan:	Adam Merrill, Deputy Director of Airside Operations
Preparer Contact Number:	(520) 573-5112
Preparer Contact Email:	amerrill@flytucson.com
Date of Submission:	11/2025
Airport Category:	Small Hub
Aircraft operators should contact the Airport Communications Center in the event of diversion or other irregular operations events.	(520) 573-8111

### **Deplanement of Passengers Following Excessive Tarmac Delays:**

TUS does not own or operate any of the equipment needed to safely deplane passengers from air carrier aircraft and is, therefore, unable on its own to provide for the deplanement of passengers. Additionally, TAA personnel have no training to assist in the deplanement of passengers or using equipment owned or operated by air carriers or contract service providers. However, TUS has requested that each airline, ground handler, and FBO operation on the airport provide TUS with a list of the equipment and resources (shared equipment list) they have for deplaning passengers and contact information. TUS will provide this inventory and contact information to airlines as soon as practicable after receiving requests from such airlines experiencing excessive tarmac delays at the contact number listed above. Non-affiliated air carriers need to ensure they have agreements in place with airlines, ground handlers, or FBOs at TUS prior to diverting. TUS makes no assurances the providers and equipment on the shared equipment list will be made available, it is at the discretion of the airline, ground handler, or FBO to make these available. FBOs do not have access to the TUS terminal and therefore are unable to service aircraft at the TUS terminal.

Due to limited gate space and available parking options, TUS can only accommodate a maximum of sixteen (16) aircraft (ADG III or smaller) during a diversion event. If widebody aircraft (ADG IV or larger) divert into TUS, this will reduce the maximum allowable number. The gates at the TUS terminal are not designed to accommodate widebody aircraft, so they must be parked remotely. TUS does not own or operate any buses; in the event of a remote deplanement, the air carrier is responsible for coordinating and establishing agreements with bus companies prior to diverting. TUS does have a list of local bus companies which can be provided upon request, but TUS does not make assurances these companies will provide service.

### **Sharing of Facilities and Make Gates Available in an Emergency:**

The TUS terminal has seven (7) common use gates, the remaining gates are exclusive or preferential use. Gate A2 has direct access to the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) for Customs. TUS will make every accommodation possible to share the facility and make gates available in an emergency. Operators are requested to contact the Airport Communications Center (ACC) at (520) 573-8111 in the event of a diversion or other IROPS event. TUS will direct common use gate lessees, permittees, or users to make gates available to an air carrier seeking to deplane at a gate to the maximum extent practical. The air carrier is responsible for providing all necessary personnel and equipment for servicing, parking, and deplanement of the aircraft. If additional gates are needed, TUS will request tenant air carriers to make

preferential and/or exclusive use gates and other facilities available to an air carrier seeking to deplane at a gate, during those time periods when the tenant airline is not using, or not scheduled to use, the gates, to the maximum extent practical. A map is available of this gate configuration upon request.

**Provide a Sterile Area for Passengers who have not cleared United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP):**

TUS has defined sterile areas capable of accommodating limited numbers of international passengers. TUS will coordinate with local CBP officials to develop procedures to allow international passengers, who have not yet cleared United States Customs and Border Protection, to be deplaned into these sterile areas to the extent practical. CBP officials are not on TUS property after 21:00 MST<sup>2</sup> and will need to be called back.

**Public Access to the Emergency Contingency Plan:**

TUS will provide public access to its emergency contingency plan through one or more of the following means:

- Post on the airport website (<http://flytucson.com>)
- Provide notice of the availability of the plan on the airport social media accounts.
- Post signs in conspicuous locations in the terminal.

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<sup>2</sup> Times are subject to change.  
Revision Date: November 2025