

From: Gillespie Pilots Association <gillespiepilots@gmail.com>

Subject: Gillespie Field Airport Updates



Announcements & Updates

Gillespie Field NOTAMs

KSEE Users~

I am so happy to see so many of you well and flying at the airfield this past month!

We have been working closely with the FAA ATC Manager, to extend Gillespie Field's ATC hours as operations increase. **Starting July 12th, the FAA will extend the tower operating hours to 0700-1800 Local daily.** Please check NOTAMs before you fly for the latest status of airport and airspace conditions. The FAA will continue to monitor traffic counts and pilot feedback; to extend hours as merited with the current COVID-19 staffing plan. The FAAS team has been amazing and supportive with outreach and education materials for pilots utilizing CTAF and adjusting to non-towered operations.

Our local FAAS team would like to share the following information with pilots:

COVID-19 is still very much amongst us and regrettably on the increase in San

Diego County. The manning levels at our local towers and at SoCal are still reduced due to this. These reductions are both in operational hours worked and in manning levels which are due to social distancing requirements at controller workstations.

Many flight schools however are seeing a steady increase in flight training and although ATC are acutely aware of this, it will be sometime before we see the level of ATC services return to pre COVID-19 levels. Several schools at SEE have already coordinated and staggered start times, but ATC can still only handle so many aircraft at one time.

We need to be fully cognizant that having multiple flight schools with increasing GA aircraft movements requesting VFR flight following, VFR practice approaches or tower en-route clearances, very rapidly saturates the current system. Now that the May Grey, June Gloom is almost behind us and with Gillespie ATC returning to a 7 am start time on the 12th of July, hopefully we can all try to further stagger our departure times to alleviate this and thereby prevent prolonged ground holds.

Secondly, the noise level complaints for traffic on 27L are increasing weekly, this may be in part to many people working from home during the day. However, we all need to make a conscious effort to reduce this. Please encourage everyone to review and strictly adhere to the recommended traffic pattern route and power settings (Attached). Let's all try to be good neighbors.

*Fly safe,
FAASTeam*

As a reminder, Gillespie Field staffs the airfield 24 hours a day, if a pilot needs

assistance after ATC hours with a flat tire or other disabled aircraft issue you may contact Airport Staff through the following means:

CTAF: 120.7 (Airport Operations and or Security monitor the frequency)

Airport Operations: 619-956-4826 (staffed generally 05:30-22:00/ Sat & Sun 05:30-14:30)

After Hours Emergency: 858-565-5255

Wishing you all the best,

Cathe Johnson

Airport Manager

Gillespie Field, Agua Caliente, Jacumba and Ocotillo Airport

(619) 956-4805

cathe.johnson@sdcounty.ca.gov

[Check your NOTAMs](#)

[Download the Pilot Safety Card](#)

[27L T&G VNAP](#)

[Helo Pioneer Pattern](#)

If you or your clients have any questions or concerns regarding the planned Airfield project, please give us a call:

Airport Operations: 619-956-4826



Cathe Johnson

Airport Manager

Gillespie Field, Agua Caliente,
Jacumba, and Ocotillo Airports