

FREQUENTLY ASKED NOISE QUESTIONS

Does Gillespie Field have a noise abatement program? Yes. Gillespie Field developed a Voluntary Noise Abatement Program (VNAP) with input from the community, air traffic control (ATC), airport stakeholders, and airport staff. The program was designed to provide guidance and recommendations to pilots to help minimize noise levels over residential areas, raise residential and pilot awareness of noise and low flight concerns. SAFETY, however, always supersedes noise abatement procedures.

What does Gillespie's noise abatement program and procedures consist of? The noise abatement program and procedures are recommended practices and flight path pilots are encouraged to follow to minimize noise over residential areas. They are subject to change due to weather, traffic, and air traffic control. Flight safety always has priority over these recommendations. The recommended procedures when conducting touch and go operations in runway 9R/27L traffic pattern are:

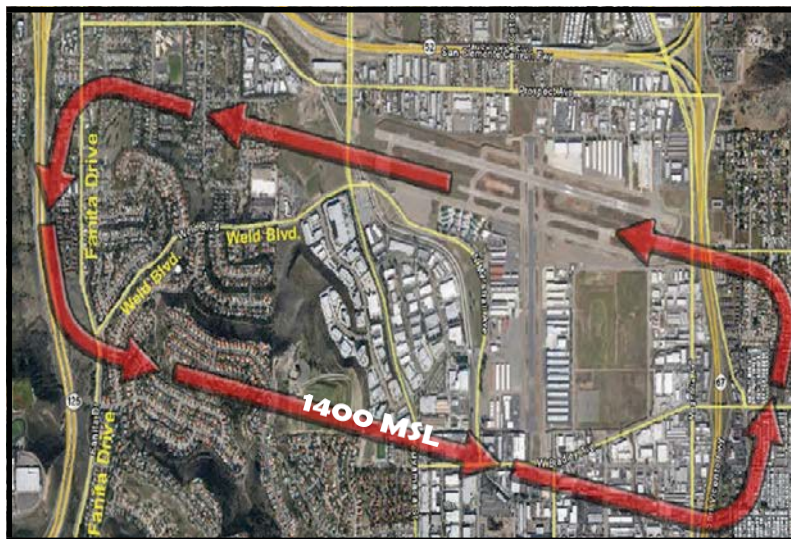
RWY 9R/27L Noise Abatement Pattern

1. On takeoff use best rate of climb (Vx) or (Vy) until reaching 1400' MSL without compromising safety.
2. Fly runway heading taking into consideration any crosswind to prevent drifting off course.
3. Turn crosswind between Fanita Drive and HWY 125 and fly over HWY 125.
4. From HWY 125 turn downwind to fly over the FIRST VALLEY.
5. Make every effort to reach 1400' MSL before turning downwind and use reduced power settings while over residential areas.

Additionally, the program consists of:

GILLESPIE FIELD VNAP

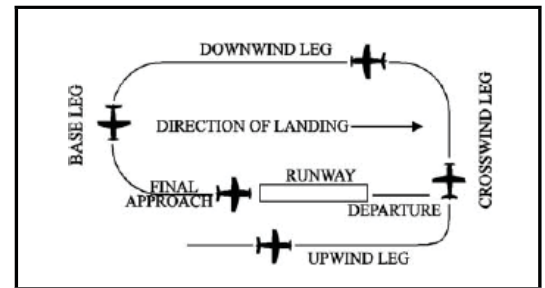
- Discourage 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. touch-and-go, stop and go, successive landings and departures
- Discourage 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. jet operations
- Encourage training operations at other airports
- Encourage touch-and-go operations on RWY 27R when able
- RWY 17 preferred noise abatement departure when tower closed (9 p.m. to 7 a.m.)



Why isn't the VNAP mandatory? Why do planes fly after 10 p.m.? Gillespie Field is classified by the FAA National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) as a public use Reliever Airport which is part of the national transportation system. The airport is **prohibited** by federal law from establishing use restrictions, fines, and penalties, including any during the VNAP hours. As a result of Federal grant assurances and Federal regulations the airport must remain open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

Why do planes fly after 10 p.m. and why do they sound louder? A portion of the flights after 10 p.m. are engaged in law enforcement, fire/rescue activity, air ambulatory medical flights, news media flights, public utilities, or business related. Flights related to training are usually kept to a minimum though occasionally occur due to FAA nighttime requirements such as nighttime certification and nighttime currency requirements. Aircraft generated noise often sounds louder at night as the surrounding residential ambient noise is normally lower at night; there is less traffic and other noise being generated in the area. This can also at times be attributable to the local marine layer or low clouds which tend to reverberate sound back to the ground and extend the duration of aircraft noise.

Can the airport change flight paths or use another runway? The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) controls and regulates air- space. Any change in departure or arrival flight paths must be ap- proved and implemented by the FAA. Airport staff is here in large part to help communicate between the airport, FAA and local community.



In May of 2016, Gillespie Field requested the FAA to review a previous request to raise the pattern altitude for runway 9R/27L to 1,400 ft. MSL (1,000 ft. AGL). In July of 2016 the FAA completed its review and issued a letter of determination raising the pattern to 1,400 ft. MSL without changing the footprint of the traffic pattern. In terms of traffic patterns, the FAA traditionally does not change pattern size or dimensions as it only shifts the noise to an area not previously affected.

When the control tower is operational (7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) the control tower determines which runway(s) will be in use. In the interest of SAFETY this is usually based on current wind conditions and the runway(s) which will allow pilots to depart into the wind when 5 knots or more. Throughout the year the prevailing winds at Gillespie Field are out of the west averaging 5 knots or more, this means the majority of the time aircraft will de- part to the west and arrive from the east on runways 27L and 27R.

At other times due to weather systems such as seasonal Santa Ana Winds or wind shifts, the tower will switch to runway 17/35 and have aircraft depart or arrive to/from the north or south.

Who tells pilots when to turn or what route to fly? The FAA control tower during operational hours is responsible for the safe and efficient flow of traffic into and out of Gillespie Field and its associated airspace. The tower is operational daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Pilots flying under instrument flight rules are on a prescribed arrival/departure route while aircraft under visual flight rules follow FAA recommended procedures and regulations learned in flight training and outlined in various FAA Orders, rules, and regulations.

Who do I report low-flying aircraft or reckless flight maneuvers too? The FAA has a local Flight Standards District Office, you can contact this office regarding:

- Low-flying aircraft ● Accident Reporting
- Certification and modification issues Enforcement of Airmen & Aircraft Regulations

The office is located at 9665 Granite Ridge Dr, STE 200, San Diego, CA 92123 and can be contact at (858) 810-2626.

How do I file a noise complaint? If the information contained herein has not answered your questions or concerns, the preferred method for filing a noise complaint is through the County of San Diego Airports website at: sdcountyairports.com, selecting Gillespie Field and then clicking on the Noise Information link. Using this system will prompt you to input all of the information needed for airport staff to address your complaint.

What happens when I submit a noise complaint? Airport staff will log your complaint into its noise complaint database. Staff will then investigate your complaint and follow-up with you if requested, aircraft operators when applicable, or may direct you to an agency having jurisdiction over the matter noted in your complaint. Airport staff does not investigate low-flying aircraft, aircraft maintenance, aircraft operational issues, aircraft permits, or airmen certification issues. These issues and enforcement of Airmen & Aircraft Regulations are investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration Flight Standards Field Offices. The FAA San Diego office is located at 9665 Granite Ridge Dr, STE 200, San Diego, CA 92123 or can be reached at (858) 810-2626

WE HOPE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ANSWER MOST OF YOUR QUESTIONS!

County of San Diego Airports

Gillespie Field



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