

Weather diverts four Vegas-bound flights to Laughlin/Bullhead

May 8, 2017

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BULLHEAD CITY — Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport was a little busier than normal on Sunday afternoon, thanks to some nasty weather 90 miles away.

Four flights bound for Las Vegas McCarran International Airport were diverted to the Bullhead City airport for a short time. According to the Federal Aviation Administration, a combination of wind and thunderstorms prompted officials to hold flights scheduled to land at the Las Vegas airport. Four of those flights landed in Bullhead City to wait out the weather before completing their routes to Vegas.

“It’s pretty rare,” said Jeremy Keating, Laughlin/Bullhead International Airport director. “Maybe two or three times a year.” Keating said Laughlin/Bullhead’s proximity to Las Vegas makes it a desirable location for flights that are short of fuel to remain in a holding pattern to wait out the weather.

“Most of the time, they are just here long enough to refuel,” he said. “We’re one of the closest commercial airports (to Las Vegas). It’s good that we can accommodate them.”

Laughlin/Bullhead recently resumed commercial passenger service with the acquisition of an American Eagle (American Airlines) daily flight to and from Phoenix Sky Harbor. But on Sunday, flights for Allegiant, SkyWest (Delta Connections) and Southwest also landed in Bullhead City. Allegiant had two flights, one from Rockford, Ill., and one from Fargo, N.D., diverted; a SkyWest flight from San Diego landed; and Southwest’s flight from Omaha to Vegas was rerouted through Bullhead City.

Weather also affected flights to and from Los Angeles International Airport, where thunderstorms caused delays of up to two hours on Sunday, according to the FAA.