

Paris, 1st February 2009

Snow expected in the morning of 2 February:

Aéroports de Paris launches pre-emptive runway treatment operations and advises passengers to contact their airlines for information

According to the latest Météo France forecast, particularly long and continuous snowfall is expected in the night of Sunday to Monday February 2 till the end of the day, and probably the following night, at Paris-Orly and Paris-Charles de Gaulle airports. In addition, there can be shifting winds on Monday. These weather conditions particularly difficult for air transport could cause important disruptions; especially with other European airports also suffering from adverse weather conditions.

Aéroports de Paris advises passengers to contact their airline in order to get more information about their flight.

Air traffic

A coordination cell, piloted by the French civil aviation authority (DGAC) is formed. The DGAC has asked airlines to cancel 30% of their flights departing from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport on Monday morning. Other cancellation could be decided if weather conditions worsen (wind conditions, aircraft deicing, ..). For safety reasons, the DGAC is the authority which decides the possible changes in number of take offs and landings of aircraft. These operations, called "traffic regulation", are likely to cause flight cancellations or delays.

Ground operations

At airport level, Aéroports de Paris anticipates. In the night of Sunday 1st February, the snow command centers of Paris-Orly and Paris-Charles de Gaulle airports will open. The winter service teams- about a hundred men and women – will step in for a pre-emptive treatment of the runways and taxiways at both airports.

As a reminder, Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport has 4 runways including 2 long ones of 4, 200 m x 60 m and 2 short ones of 2, 700 m x 60 m, as well as 100 Km of aircraft taxiways and 300 ha of parking areas. Paris-Orly has 3 runways of 3, 600 m x 45 m, 3, 300 m x 45 m and 2, 400 m x 60 m, as well 18 km of taxiways and 100 ha of parking areas.

The reason for delays in case of snow is that the safety of passengers and aircraft comes before everything else!

www.aeroportsdeparis.fr

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Aéroports de Paris builds, develops and manages airports including Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly and Paris-Le Bourget. Aéroports de Paris is Europe's second-largest airport services group in terms of airport revenues and the European leader for cargo and mail. Aéroports de Paris accommodates nearly 460 airlines, including the main companies in the air transport industry. With an exceptional geographic location and a major trading area, the Group is pursuing its strategy of modernizing its terminal facilities and upgrading the quality of services, and also intends to develop its retail and real estate business. In 2007, Aéroports de Paris Group had revenues of €2,292.4 million and handled 86.4 million passengers.



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Press release

1- traffic regulation : carried out, for safety reasons, by the French civil aviation authorities (DGAC). The airport capacities (number of aircraft movement per hour), usually 75 departures and 69 arrivals for Paris-Charles de Gaulle, and 38 departures and 38 arrivals for Paris-Orly, are more or less reduced depending on weather conditions (visibility, etc.).

2- Runway snow removal is carried out by the snow clearing teams of Aéroports de Paris: unlike roads and motorways, besides snow removal, runway "friction coefficient" must be measured, to comply with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation). It takes about 45 minutes to clear a runway.

3- Aircraft deicing is carried out by Aéroports de Paris at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and by airlines or their sub-contractors at Paris-Orly: about ten minutes are generally necessary to deice a plane. In case of lasting snow, the de-icing takes 25 minutes; otherwise, the frost affects the take off capacity of the plane due to the weight of the ice.

For more information, an Aéroports de Paris winter service press kit is available on line on www.aeroportsdeparis.fr in the press section

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