

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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BusinessSafe Highlight: Aviation Subsector

The aviation subsector consists of aircraft, air traffic control systems, airports, heliports, commercial and recreational manned and unmanned aircraft, landing strips, and other aviation support services. Florida is home to 130 public-use airport facilities, including 20 commercial service airports. Due to its role in transporting passengers and goods, the aviation subsector can be a potential target for a variety of criminal and terrorist activities. The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) along with other federal, state, and private partners use multiple mitigation and security measures to protect the aviation subsector from harm.

Criminal Activity

Criminal actors may try to disrupt aviation operations. The use of lasers, and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) can result in harm to pilots and passengers or operations disruptions. Aviation passengers or customers may either knowingly or unknowingly attempt to transport illegal items in their carry on or checked luggage or through the use of air cargo services. As the aviation subsector is also used to transport goods, cargo theft and the transport of illicit items is a concern for this subsector.

- **Lasers** – Lasers pointed at aircraft are illegal and can impede or damage a pilot's vision and be a serious safety threat. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has reported 493 laser incidents in Florida from January to October 2021.
[Lasers Aimed at Aircraft Cockpits: Background and Possible Options to Address the Threat to Aviation Safety and Security](#)
[Laser Striker Sentenced](#)
- **Transport of Illicit Items** – Criminal actors may try to take advantage of the aviation subsector to transport illicit goods or, in some instances, cause mass harm by trying to bring weapons or explosive devices on planes. TSA screens passengers and checked luggage prior to airplane boarding in an effort to ensure illegal items are not brought onto airplanes.
[TSA firearm catch rate doubles in 2020 - highest in the agency's 19-year history](#)
[Philadelphia CBP Officers Seize More than \\$6.5 Million in Fake Currency from Russia](#)



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- **UAS** – The FAA reports that Florida had 181 unauthorized UAS sightings from January to June 2021. The presence of a UAS can disrupt operations and potentially cause harm to aircraft and passengers, and the use of UAS devices is not permitted near aircrafts or airports. The FAA has information on UAS rules, regulations, and a [safety app](#) to assist UAS operators in determining where it is safe to fly.
[Drones too close to aircraft spark concerns in Tampa Bay](#)
[Dangerous Drones: Increase in illegal drone flights causes grounded flights, issues for firefighters](#)
- **Passenger Disruptions** – Passenger disruptions in airports and on flights can interrupt airport and flight operations. Criminal actors may try to subvert rules, threaten or physically assault airline employees or other passengers, which can result in emergency landings or flight cancellations.
[10 passengers, accused of unruly behavior on flights, face \\$225K in fines, FAA says](#)
[Justice Department Addresses Rise in Criminal Conduct on Commercial Aircraft](#)

Resources

- TSA offers information on baggage and passenger [security screening](#) measures as well as [security guidelines for general aviation airport operators and users](#).
- The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency offers a [fact sheet](#) on UAS security challenges as well as information on threats and mitigation resources for critical infrastructure operators on their [website](#).
- **“If You See Something, Say Something®”** – Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the Florida Department of Law Enforcement website using [Florida’s See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#), via the Florida See Say app, or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911. FDLE also offers [potential indicators of suspicious activities related to aviation](#) and other [potential threats to the aviation subsector](#).



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