

## Weather Products

(The reason it is hard to keep all those weather products straight...)

### Satellite “Clouds”

Visible – day  
Infrared – night

### Radar “Precipitation”

Radar Summary Chart -- Shows the direction and speed of thunderstorms

### Text

Aviation Routine Weather Report (METAR) – Current weather  
Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) – Forecast for major airports  
Aviation Area Forecast (FA) – “Fills in the gaps” between major airports  
PIREPS/Pilot Weather Reports (UA)  
Winds and Temperatures Aloft Forecast (FD)

### Charts

Surface Analysis Chart – The “big picture” with a little of everything  
Weather Depiction Chart – A quick look at what’s VFR, MVFR, or IFR and why  
Low-Level Significant Weather Prognostic Chart – Forecast  
Winds and Temperatures Aloft – The chart version of the text report

### Telephone

Flight Service Station (AFSS) Weather Briefing – Call 1-800-WX-BRIEF  
Telephone Information Briefing Service (TIBS) – Call 1-800-WX-BRIEF

### In-flight Weather Briefing

Flight Service Station (below 5000’ AGL)  
Enroute Flight Advisory Service “Flight Watch” – 122.0 (above 5000 AGL)

### In-flight Advisories

AIRMET (WA) – Warning for small aircraft  
SIGMET (WS) – Warning for all aircraft  
CONVECTIVE SIGMET (WST) – Warning for all aircraft about thunderstorms

### In-flight Reports

Automated Surface Observation System (ASOS) – Automatic, minute by minute  
Automated Weather Observation System (AWOS) – Less advanced ASOS  
Automated Terminal Information Service (ATIS) – Recorded by control tower  
Transcribed Weather Broadcast (TWEB) – Broadcast on VORs for specific routes  
Hazardous In-Flight Weather Advisory Service (HIWAS) – On VORs

Internet –To be considered “legal,” the service must retain a record of the briefing)

[www.duat.com](http://www.duat.com)  
[www.duats.com](http://www.duats.com)  
[www.aopa.org/members/wx/](http://www.aopa.org/members/wx/)

Other – These are generally used for planning a few days in advance

Television  
Local Radio Station