

Sequester Cuts Cause Delays at Eastern Iowa Airport

By Nadia Crow, Reporter



CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa - FAA furloughs are causing flight delays at several US airports, and some eastern Iowa travelers are feeling the effect. Automatic spending cuts require all air-traffic controllers to take furlough days. The sequester has forced the Department of Transportation to cut one billion dollars from its budget. It means, 47,000 FAA employees, including 15,000 air traffic controllers, have to each take eleven days of unpaid leave before October first. Because of that, the FAA expects some 6,700 flight delays each day, nationwide.

All eyes are glued to big monitors scattered around the airport here. You can check your flight status and try your hand at predicting weather. The biggest questions people want to know when they look at this board are, "Is my flight on time and is there anything that would delay my travel plans?" And you may not know until after you take off from Cedar Rapids.

"Just relaxing and taking time with my mother and my sister taking it one day at a time," said Hufford.

But before Solon's Tracy Hufford gets to Rome, Italy, she has to get on two planes through three airports, with the looming sequester cuts hanging over her travels.



"It made us a little nervous. We thought about taking an earlier flight, but so far so good," said Hufford.

Leaving Eastern Iowa isn't the problem. It's getting to your connecting flight on time. And what about getting back to Cedar Rapids?

"The planes are always being watched by air traffic control. So when you have a lot of volume or weather delays, they really have to watch the separation of aircrafts," said CID Airport Director Tim Bradshaw.

And fewer of those watchful eyes could mean more people on the ground waiting for their trip in the sky. It happened just this past weekend. Flight delays littered the jumbo screens at airports across the nation.

"The planes are full and when you have any kind of glitch in the system, it's very hard to rebook," said Bradshaw

Tuesday, there are no real delays to speak of at the Eastern Iowa Airport, but pending interruptions makes Hufford weary of flying.

"I hope they get it straightened out for the public because when people are flying they're spending a lot of money and we had delays before so this is only going to compound that problem," said traveler Tracy Hufford.

And a busy summer travel season puts more pressure on Congress to make changes as tensions and frustrations from travelers climb.

Bradshaw says you should be prepared to wait, especially if you're traveling to or through New York City where most of the delays are expected. Most airlines have beefed up their online presence, so you can take your smartphone and follow your flight, check for delays, and even connect with the airlines directly.

Previous Article Eastern Iowa Museums and Libraries Receive National Medal

Next Article Facebook, Google Expansions Raises Question Why Not Eastern Iowa?

FEATURED ARTICLES from KCRG.com



Westdale Mall Transformation Moving Ahead



Claims Second

Cedar Rapids Woman Former A-P Teacher Pleads Guilty to Lottery Prize in ... Sexual Miscond...

ASHLEY ANDERSON



Officials Find Missing Jones County Man

CONVERSATION GUIDELINES

Be Kind

Don't use abusive, offensive, threatening, racist, vulgar or sexually-oriented language. Don't attack someone personally. Keep it civil and be responsible.

Share Knowledge

Be truthful. Share what you know and what you are passionate about. What more do you want to learn? Keep it simple.

Stay focused

Promote lively and healthy debate. Stay on topic. Ask questions and give feedback on the story's topic.

Report Trouble

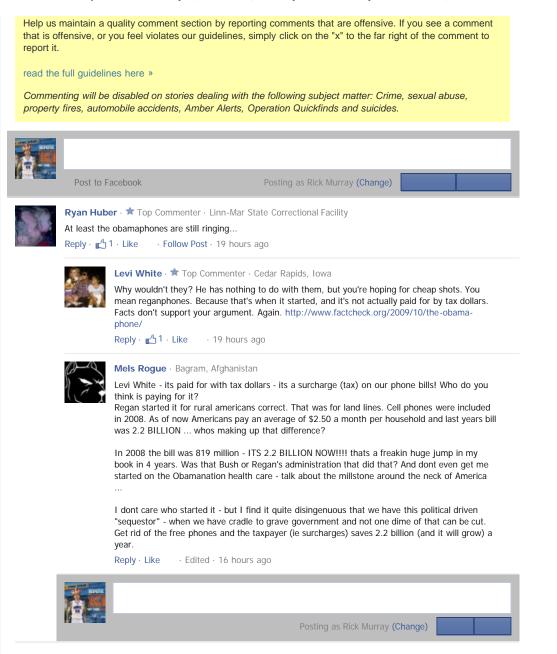
 $http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Sequester-cuts-cause-delays-at-Eastern-Iowa-Airport-204380641.html[4/24/2013 4:03:12 PM] \\ http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Sequester-cuts-cause-delays-at-Eastern-Iowa-Airport-204380641.html[4/24/2013 4:03:12 PM] \\ http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Sequester-cuts-cause-delays-at-Eastern-Easter$

Seeking A Job? >>

- 1. Account Manager IA-Cedar Rapids | EnCompass
- 2. Music Education Customer Service Manager. IA-Coralville | West Music
- 3. Account Support Advisor IA-Cedar Rapids | GreatAmerica Financial Services Corporation



Sequester Cuts Cause Delays at Eastern Iowa Airport | KCRG-TV9 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa News, Sports, and Weather | Local News



KCRG A-List vote for your favorite at hooplanow.com/alist











Restaurant

BEST Invitations

More Good Stuff

BEST Mexican



Antarctic adventure now within reach, but keep it safe

In 1911, Norwegian Roald Amundsen and British rival Robert Falcon Scott raced overland to be the first to stand at the South Pole. Amundsen planted a flag on the spot that Scott would find three weeks later, before he would turn around for his ill-fated return to the coast. More

Sequester Cuts Cause Delays at Eastern Iowa Airport | KCRG-TV9 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa News, Sports, and Weather | Local News

