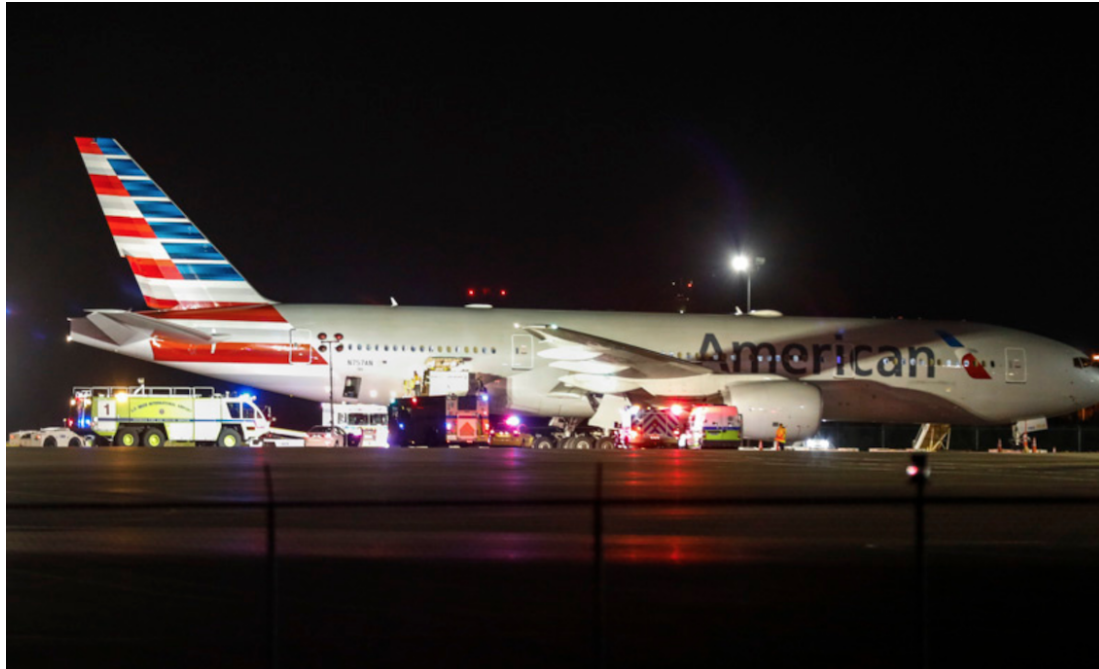


Do you use Bermuda (TXKF) as a NAT alternate at night?

David Mumford
8 February, 2018



The Bermuda AIP says that they have Fire Category 9 from 07-23 local time, but also that “during uncontrolled hours of operations BFRS/ARFF will be called out at CAT 9”.

So does this mean that Fire Category 9 is essentially ALWAYS available? And how long does it really take to call them out in an emergency?

We got an answer to that question the other day, when an American Airlines B777-200 en-route from JFK/New York to SBGL/Rio de Janeiro had to make an emergency divert to TXKF/Bermuda due to a suspected fire in the cargo hold.

ATC cleared the flight direct to TXKF/Bermuda. They advised the crew that the tower at the airport was not staffed at the time (although the runway has pilot controlled runway lighting), but that emergency services had been alerted and would be on standby for their arrival.

38 minutes later, at 12.18 am, the flight landed, and the emergency services were indeed there as promised.

The whole cargo fire thing turned out to be a false alarm, although we’re very thankful to one of the passengers-the supermodel Joan Smalls-for **documenting the ordeal on social media**.

We contacted the airport authority to check exactly how long they really need for emergency divers, and whether they really do provide Fire Cat 9 in these situations. Here is their response:

“ARFF is available 24hrs and yes will be staffed at the appropriate level to be cat 9 at all times. After 2300 Local Time when the local airport is uncontrolled , ARFF requires 20 minutes for call out for such events like diversions.”

So there you have it. You can always rely on Fire Cat 9 at TXKF – just make sure you give them at least 20

Bermuda PPR requirements for the Americas Cup

Declan Selleck
8 February, 2018



Bermuda will host the Americas Cup from May 29 – Jun 27.

As a result, the airport will be busier than usual, so plan ops and parking well in advance.

There are now a number of requirements for private/non-scheduled flights, applied between May 23 until June 30:

- **PPR is mandatory.** You must have permission from the Airport Company before operating
- The Americas Cup dates are May 29-Jun 27, but PPR is required from **May 23-Jun 30**.
- The request must be made at least 24 hours in advance, unless you are operating a Medevac flight
- PPR Number will be issued and must be shown in Field 18 of the FPL
- Request the permission from ac35ppr@skyport.bm, or phone them on +1 441 299-2470

PPR is not required to carry TXKF as an enroute alternate (it's a popular ETOPS airport), but bear in mind that if you do choose to divert here, recovery may take longer.