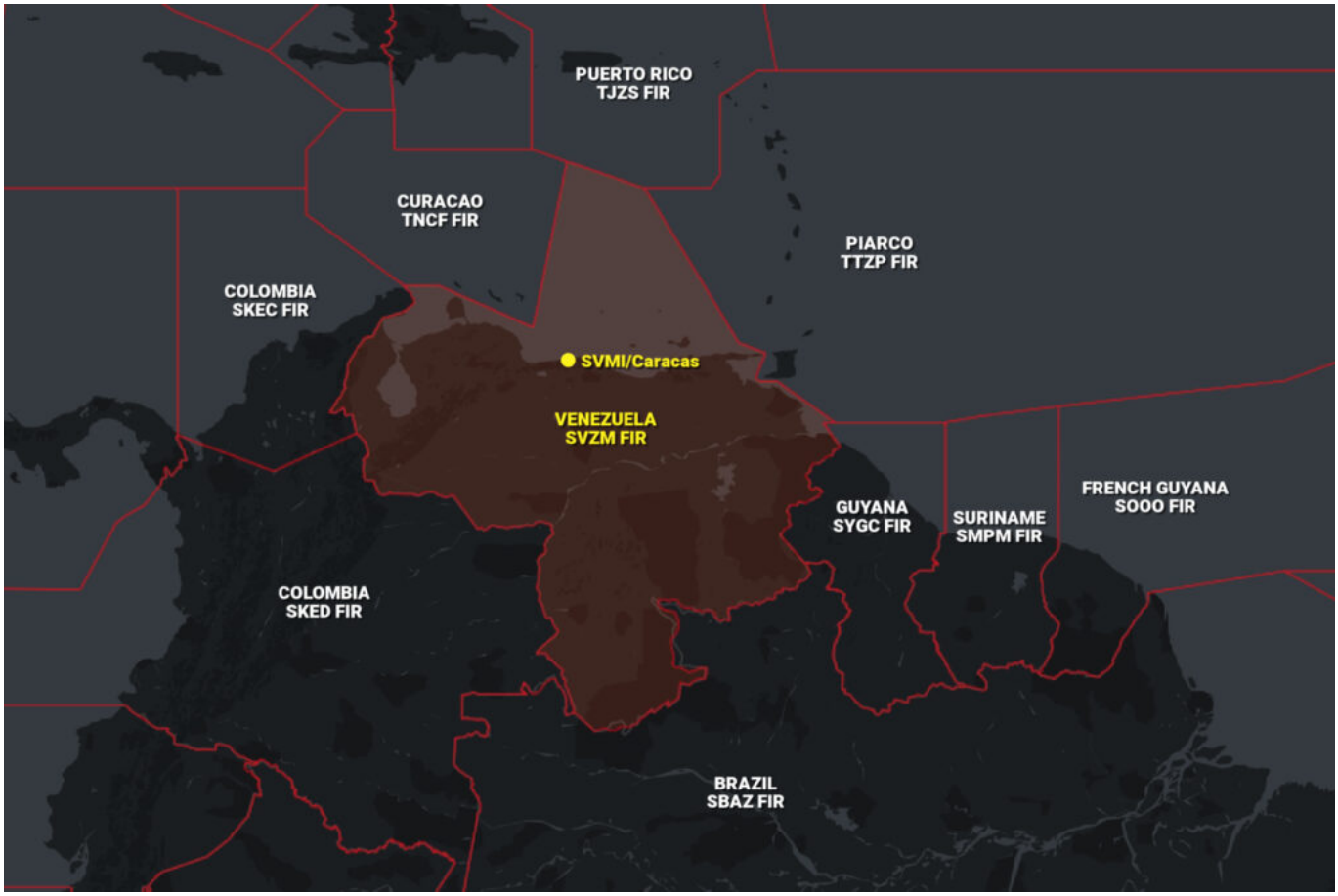
Venezuela & Caribbean Airspace Update

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7 January, 2026



It’s been a busy few days across Venezuelan and Caribbean airspace.

On Jan 3, the US FAA issued a temporary flight ban for US operators in Venezuela’s SVZM/Maiquetia FIR, the TJZS/San Juan and TNCF/Curacao FIRs, plus the TTZP/Piarco FIR west of 57W – which in practice covers the entire eastern Caribbean island chain.



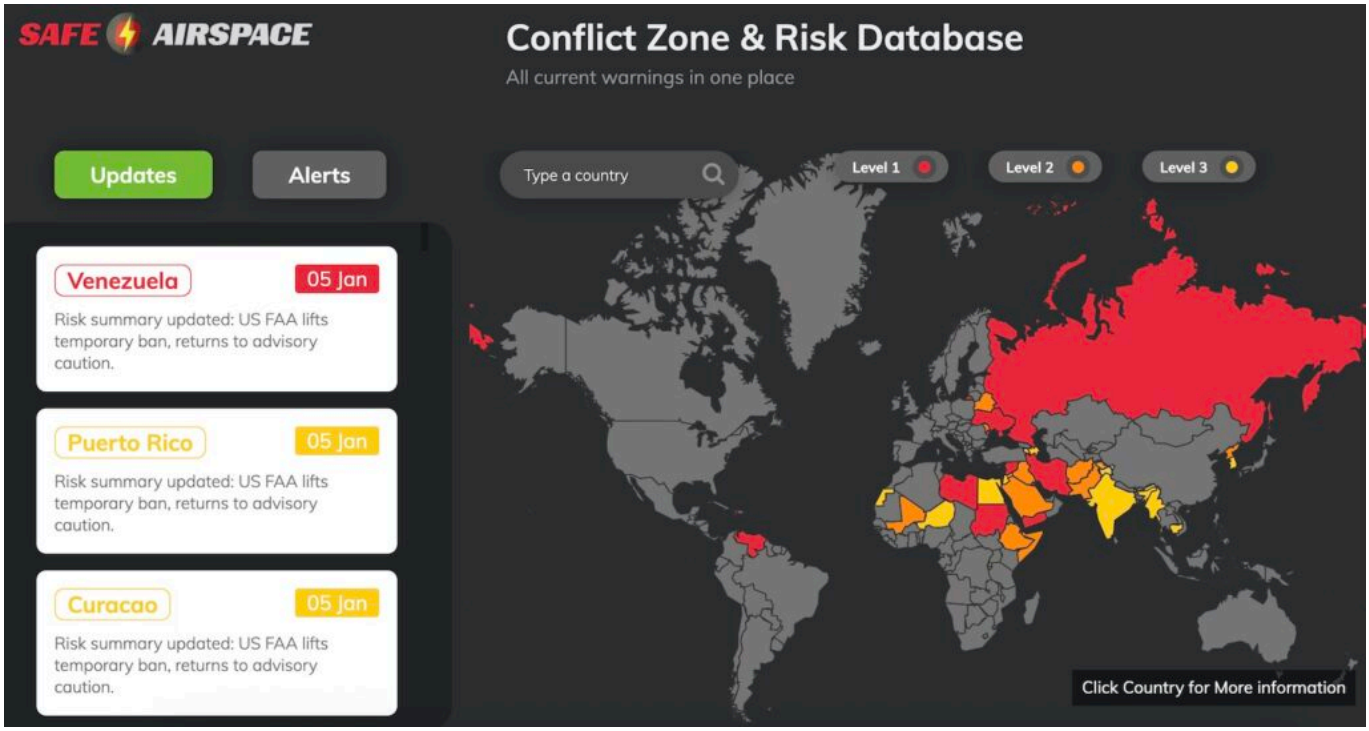
The move followed US airstrikes in Venezuela and was driven by **safety-of-flight concerns linked to military activity and misidentification risk.**

> Venezuelan and Caribbean airspace from late last night (local time) through this afternoon. pic.twitter.com/oxu5ha3dXs
>
> — Flightradar24 (@flightradar24) January 3, 2026

That prohibition was short-lived. Within hours, the FAA lifted the ban and reverted to advisory Notams, returning to earlier guidance for **US operators to exercise caution at all altitudes in the affected FIRs.**

While the temporary FAA ban has ended, **airspace warnings still remain in place.** The US, Canada, EASA and several European states continue to advise avoiding Venezuelan airspace and to exercise caution across the surrounding region.

These sit on top of earlier warnings from late 2025 flagging **GPS interference, reduced ATC visibility, and unpredictable traffic.** Operators have been reporting these issues for months, with no clear indication they've fully gone away.



On safeairspace.net, we continue to list Venezuela as Level 1: Do Not Fly.

For several days after Jan 3, departures from parts of the eastern Caribbean were heavily delayed, with aircraft held on the ground due to parking constraints and ATC flow controls. **Most of that disruption has now cleared.** FAA flow programs are no longer active and the situation at the airports has largely returned to normal. The main exception is TNCM/St Maarten, where ramp congestion continues to limit GA flights through Jan 12 as per the current Notam.

> A0019/26 NOTAMN
> Q) TJZS/QFAXX/IV/NBO/A/000/999/1802N06307W005
> A) TNCM
> B) 2601081100 C) 2601120100
> E) GA OPS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DAILY HOURLY RATE
> PUBLISHED BLW.
> PRIOR APPROVAL REQUIRED TO BE COORDINATED WITH THE RESPECTIVE
> FIXED BASE OPERATOR.
> FROM 11:00 UNTIL 15:00 UTC 4 PER HR
> FROM 15:01 UNTIL 21:00 UTC 2 PER HR
> FROM 21:01 UNTIL 01:00 UTC 4 PER HR
> FLTS NOT OBTAINING PRIOR APPROVAL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

If you're operating in the area and have updates to share with OPSGROUP members, please email news@ops.group and we'll update this article as things change.