

9/18/2025

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

2025-236/8-28

2268226

To: FAA (ATM ZDV ARTCC, ATM D01 TRACON)

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations CSA),  
A4A, AAAE, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSG, EAA, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA,  
NAFI, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director  
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: ZDV Operations Training

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the enclosed deidentified report.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at [becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov](mailto:becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov).



Aviation Safety Reporting System  
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



## ACN 2268226

### DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence	202507
Local Time Of Day	1801 to 2400

### PLACE

Locale	ZDV.ARTCC
State	CO

### AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Center	ZDV
Make Model Name	No Aircraft

### PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control	Enroute
ASRS Report Number	2268226

### EVENTS

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy

### NARRATIVE 1

On Day 0, at XA:00 COS TRACON/Tower informed ZDV that they will not be able to keep the TRACON open today due to staffing. ZDV - Area 3 - 41R would be assuming the COS airspace in approximately 20 minutes, while COS Tower would remain open and revert to a VFR Tower. This is an operation that Area 3 has not been properly trained on and never works. An adequate briefing on these contingency procedures has never occurred, and no one in Area 3 is proficient on the operation, which is a major safety concern. Lab problems have been requested on COS Tower only operations for the last five years, but they have been repeatedly ignored. A last-minute closure of COS TRACON, with the assumption that Area 3 will be able to accommodate assuming the airspace, on a beautiful VFR Saturday, while ZDV is already hitting record traffic counts consistently with less CPC's than ever, adds unnecessary stress to the already overworked and fatigued controllers and is an unacceptable risk to the NAS.

Recommendation: More Training for Area, to prepare us for the next time we have to take COS airspace.

### SYNOPSIS

A Center Controller reported their sector was assigned responsibility for underlying TRACON airspace which could not open due to staffing. The Center Controllers had not been trained on procedures or techniques to work air traffic in that airspace.