

ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2026:5/11-1

2/19/2026

2305715

TO: FAA (ASO-600, AAS-1), Airport Manager, Asheville Regional Airport (AVL), NC.

INFO: FAA (AFS-200, AVP-1, AVP-200, AAS-300, AFS-260), ATSG, AFA, ALPA, IFALPA, APA, APFA, ASAP, A4A, IATA, CAPA, ICAO, ICASS, IPA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

FROM: Becky L. Hooley, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

SUBJ: Salt Contamination on Ramp

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 following:

ASRS received a report from a pilot expressing concern about the use of corrosive salt on the ramp at AVL airport. The reporter stated the corrosive properties of salt should preclude the use of that product since it can pose a safety hazard to aircraft. Reporter stated post flight salt crystals were found throughout the aircraft requiring the aircraft be washed.

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 Hooley at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooley@nasa.gov.



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



ACN 2305715

DATE / TIME

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Date of Occurrence | 202511 |
| Local Time Of Day | 0601 to 1200 |

PLACE

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Locale | AVL.Airport |
| State | NC |
| Altitude - AGL | 0 |

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Make Model Name | Any Unknown or Unlisted Aircraft Manufacturer |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------|

PERSON 1

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Function - Flight Crew | Pilot Flying |
| ASRS Report Number | 2305715 |

EVENTS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anomaly | Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy |
| Anomaly | Ground Event / Encounter - FOD |
| Anomaly | No Specific Anomaly Occurred - Unwanted Situation |
| Detector - Person | Flight Crew |
| Result - General | Maintenance Action |
| Result - Flight Crew | Overcame Equipment Problem |
| Result - Aircraft | Aircraft Damaged |

NARRATIVE 1

We had a planned departure this morning. As I walked on the ramp, I took note of the salt that was used as a deicer on the pavement. Typically, this practice is discouraged since it is possible to track salt into an aircraft. Both myself and another pilot commented we had not come across something like this in several years.

We soon after arrived at the aircraft and noticed the aircraft was parked in an area that was heavily salted. White salt powder and large salt crystals covered an area approximately 150 feet x 100 feet. With over decades of experience at a midwestern airport, I am well versed in airport snow removal and I am aware that salt should never, ever be used at an airport due to the corrosive properties. I witnessed Aircraft Y park next to our aircraft in the salt area and noticed white salt dust being disturbed by the propellers just prior to aircraft engine shut down, basically contaminating the aircraft.

Upon our return to our home base, our maintenance personnel recommended a complete aircraft exterior wash along with an engine wash. Maintenance personnel also discovered dozens upon dozens of salt crystals on the aircraft entry steps, in the pilot area, and in the passenger cabin flooring.

SYNOPSIS

Pilot reported salt had been used as a ramp surface deicer at AVL and noticed that the salt had contaminated the reporter's aircraft.