

ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2026:19/5-1

4/30/2026

2345233

TO: Airport Manager, Joe Foss Field Airport (FSD), SD, FAA (AGL-600)

INFO: FAA (AAS-300, AVP-1, AVP-200, AAS-1, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations CSA, Runway Safety Team), A4A, AAAE, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, CAPA, ATSAP, ATSG, IATA, IBT, ICAO, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

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

SUBJ: FSD Ramp Lighting Issues

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 an air carrier Captain expressing concern about the inadequate ramp lighting at FSD. Reporter stated the lack of proper lighting makes identifying gate numbers difficult. Reporter further stated this has been a problem for some time but has so far not been addressed.

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.



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



ACN 2345233**DATE / TIME**

Date of Occurrence 202603
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale FSD.Airport
State SD
Altitude - AGL 0

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions VMC

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Ramp FSD
Make Model Name Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part 121

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Captain
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Flying
ASRS Report Number 2345233

EVENTS

Anomaly Ground Event / Encounter - Ground Equipment Issue
Detector - Person Flight Crew

NARRATIVE 1

I have filed reports on this particular subject before. Taxiing in to the gate in FSD at night is a real challenge. After speaking with the gate agent it sounds like there has been multiple complaints for pilots. The ramp is extremely dark. There's no lighting. You cannot see the numbers on the buildings and in addition Gate XX which is Company X, leaves the jet bridge lights on which are blinding. Gate XY is completely pitch black and if the rampers are not there which they were not tonight, then it's very difficult to see the correct gate. The gate agent told me that they get complaints almost every evening from the crews about this particular issue. Right next to the ramp is the de-ice pad, which is also right next to the Tower and the de-ice pad is extremely well lit with a lot of bright lights which also makes it more difficult because it creates a lot of glare and you cannot see the poorly lit ramp area. In addition to the lighting issue, it's a very tight taxi around the ramp and into our gate, which makes this a real safety issue. The ramp again is completely black. We're gonna wind up having a problem somebody's gonna hit something going into this ramp. The agent has said she's complained multiple times, but nothing has happened. I feel like this needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

SYNOPSIS

Air carrier Captain reported that taxiing to the gate at night in FSD is difficult due to inadequate lighting.