

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Huntsville International Airport Issues Tips to Simplify Air Travel this Holiday Season

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Nov. 18, 2009 – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is urging travelers to plan ahead for air travel security procedures this holiday season. The agency expects heavy passenger volume throughout the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's holidays.

Airport staff at Huntsville International Airport (HSV) reminds passengers to prepare before they arrive at the airport for holiday travel, helping to increase efficiency and service among all passengers. HSV staff recommends that passengers flying domestically arrive 1 to 1.5 hours prior to departure. For international travel, passengers are encouraged to arrive 2 hours prior to their scheduled departure. As well, passengers should be aware that most major carriers now charge a fee for checked baggage. For specific information, passengers should check with their individual airlines.

Security checkpoints at the nation's airports have coordinated TSA staffing and are prepared to accommodate the busy holiday travel season. Security officers see thousands of bags a day and must quickly determine whether or not a bag contains a possible prohibited item. Pack carry-on luggage in layers to help security officers better determine what is in a bag when they view it through the X-ray machine.

Limited liquids are allowed in carry-on luggage and TSA's [3-1-1 policy](#) remains in effect. The policy allows passengers to carry on liquids, gels, and aerosols that are three ounces or less, placed in a one-quart, zip-top bag (one bag per passenger) placed in a screening bin. Larger quantities of liquids are permitted in checked baggage. Exempted medications should be presented for further inspection. Additional security tips include:

- It is essential to arrive at the airport early to allow time to park, check-in, and process through the security checkpoint during peak travel periods.
- Do not over pack bags.
- Portable music devices, PDAs, and other smaller electronics can remain in your carry-on luggage.



- Snow globes contain liquid, and regardless of size, are not permitted through the checkpoint.
- Many holiday foods, such as cake and pie, have characteristics similar to liquids, gels, and aerosols. These items are permitted but may require further inspection.
- To minimize the risk of damage or loss, do not pack fragile or valuable items in checked luggage. Take them with you in carry-on luggage.
- Passengers are required to remove their outer coats and jackets for X-ray before proceeding through the metal detectors. This includes suit and sport coats, athletic warm-up jackets, and blazers.
- All footwear must be removed and placed in the security bin for screening.

To check wait times at your airport, for a complete list of items you can and cannot bring on board, and for information for travelers with special needs, visit www.tsa.gov.

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