

1. Is the control tower for the Columbus Airport going to close?

The FAA has published a list of control towers throughout the US which could be under consideration for closure if Congress and the Administration are unable to reach agreement on a national budget. The Columbus Airport is one of 7 Georgia airports on the consideration list. Other than the published list, the Airport has not received any notification that the Columbus Air Traffic Control Tower will in fact be closed.

2. If the tower is closed, will the airport be closed too?

The airport will remain open regardless of any decision made on closing the air traffic control tower.

3. How will aircraft be able to take-off and land without an air traffic tower?

There are procedures already in place that pilots use when operating from an airport without a control tower (this is known as an uncontrolled field). In the case of Columbus, pilots use a common traffic advisory frequency to announce their position on the airport, as well as their intentions to other pilots in the area. They also use this frequency to announce their position and intentions when in the air. There are also procedures and radio frequencies in place so that pilots can talk with air traffic controllers in Atlanta's radar approach control facility whenever there are low ceilings and visibility in the area.

4. Will air carrier service stop if there is no control tower?

Airline pilots use the same procedures that other pilots use when operating from an uncontrolled field. The control tower in Columbus operates from 9am – 9pm daily. The airlines currently serving Columbus have 2 morning flights that leave before the control tower is in operation, and 2 flights that arrive after the tower ceases operation. During the times that the control tower is not in operation the airline pilots also communicate with Atlanta's radar approach control facility.