FAA has lifted its third-ever nationwide ground stop

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said that the ground stop was not prompted by a security threat. “This is a telecommunications outage out of the FAA. Out of an abundance of caution, we have grounded all of the flights,” Mullin said. “There’s no indication as of yet that this is a nefarious attack against us.”

Mullin had said the FAA would handle incoming international flights on a case-by-case basis.

This was only the third nationwide ground stop issued by the FAA. The first, and most memorable, came during the attacks of September 11, 2001, when the FAA stopped all civilian departures nationwide and subsequently ordered all airborne aircraft to land. Commercial flights did not take off again until September 13. Flights were also grounded for less than two hours the morning of January 11, 2023, after its Notice to Air Missions system suffered an outage.

Unfortunately for travelers, it turned out to be a lengthy ground stop. Airlines were quick to cancel flights scheduled to leave later in the day, with American Airlines warning that disruptions were expected for the rest of the day.

“This is going to take some time,” Mullin said. “Flights are accounted for, and there should be no fear to the public at all.”

This story was updated at 10:03 pm EST to report the ground stop was lifted.

https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2026/11/faa-orders-third-n

ationwide-ground-stop-in-its-history/