

5/9/2024

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2024-95/6-6

2100020

To: Airport Manager, Van Nuys Airport (VNY), CA, FAA (AAS-1, ATM VNY Tower)

Info: FAA (AVP-1, AVP-200, ANG-1, AWP-600, AFS-260, AFS-200, Director of Air Traffic Operations WSA), AOPA, ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, ICAO, ICASS, NAFI, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB

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

Re: VNY ATC Radar Anomalies

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 enclosed deidentified report.

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 2100020

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202403
Local Time Of Day 1201 to 1800

PLACE

Locale VNY.Airport
State CA
Altitude - MSL 2000

ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions VMC
Weather Windshear

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower VNY
Make Model Name Small Aircraft
Operating Under FAR Part 91

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT Y

ATC / Advisory - Tower VNY
Make Model Name Any Unknown or Unlisted Aircraft Manufacturer

PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew Single Pilot
ASRS Report Number 2100020

EVENTS

Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly Conflict - NMAC
Anomaly Ground Event / Encounter - Ground Equipment Issue
Detector - Person Flight Crew

NARRATIVE 1

As a flight club officer and pilot, I am concerned about recent events at Van Nuys Airport as a result of radar instability. This is a busy airport and traffic pattern further complicated by two other local airports in close proximity. Our aircraft was returning to Van Nuys to land yesterday, with multiple other aircraft in the pattern and jets on instrument arrivals. Tower reported an unexpected radar glitch preventing them from accurate visibility and proper traffic separation. This resulted in a very confusing and unsafe situation with several near misses. This situation has been exacerbated as the VNY radar had been failing regularly over the last few weeks. We are suspending training at VNY until this is resolved. With parallel runways in use and a high volume of varied traffic, VNY is unsafe without accurate and reliable radar in the Tower.

SYNOPSIS

Small aircraft pilot reported there have been several near misses at VNY Airport due to an ongoing radar malfunction problem.