

# ROCK HILL – YORK COUNTY AIRPORT FLYING FRIENDLY

## Resident's Guide to Aircraft Noise

550 Airport Rd,  
Rock Hill, SC, 29732  
803-329-5560  
[www.flyrockhill.com](http://www.flyrockhill.com)

### Introduction

Rock Hill – York County Airport (UZA) is a general aviation facility and designated reliever airport for Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Owned and operated by the City of Rock Hill, the airport is a valuable asset to the community that fulfills an important role in the region's air transportation system with activities that include recreational aviation, flight training, and corporate/business aviation.

UZA is committed to providing modern, safe and secure facilities through a progressive capital improvement program. The airport is equally dedicated to being a good neighbor by minimizing the impact of aircraft operations and development on the environment and neighboring communities.

This guide provides information on aircraft sound exposure for our citizens whom already reside nearby and for those whom are considering relocating within the vicinity of the airport to assist with making informed home purchasing decisions.

### What is Noise?

"Noise" can be defined as unwanted sound, but is very subjective: For example, 80 decibels (dB) of aircraft sound, for example, may be considered noise, while 80+ dB of your favorite music might not.



### Aircraft Noise Exposure

- Currently, all based aircraft at UZA meet strict Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Stage III noise emission requirements, the highest standard for reducing aircraft noise emission. However, at times, there may be older jet aircraft using the airport that could generate more noise.
- Due to lower power settings used when landing versus taking off, arriving aircraft are generally quieter than departing aircraft, but these perceptions can be altered because of the altitude of the aircraft being lower during an approach to the runway.
- Aircraft flying at night tend to be perceived as louder, despite there being no actual difference, because of lower levels of interfering ambient sound.
- Weather, performance characteristics, or traffic conditions may occasionally require some aircraft to deviate from normal arrival and departure patterns
- Not all aircraft above Rock Hill are from UZA. The Charlotte airspace is pervasive above Rock Hill and is very busy with large commercial aircraft year-round.



### A Busy Airport

Rock Hill – York County Airport is open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and is the home of MedCenter Air helicopter ambulance service. Thousands of pilots, business professionals, and leisure travelers fly through Rock Hill every year. With over 150 based aircraft, 90+ takeoffs and landings per day, and an on-site flight school conducting touch-and-go operations, there is always activity at UZA.



Although pilots at UZA maintain a regular traffic pattern, FAA regulations permit aircraft to fly anywhere over Rock Hill and its neighboring communities. The FAA requires all aircraft to maintain a minimum altitude of 500 feet above ground level, except when necessary for taking off and landing. To mitigate aircraft noise levels, flying friendly programs have been orchestrated to ensure minimal noise is produced. *Ultimately, no municipality has the legal authority to regulate where or at what altitude an aircraft may fly.*

# Considering a home near Rock Hill – York County Airport?

## ***Invest Wisely***

Before buying, review community growth plans, zoning maps, and visit the airport. Staff would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you! We may be contacted at 803-329-5560 or online at [www.flyrockhill.com](http://www.flyrockhill.com). UZA also encourages you to spend time during a weekend observing aircraft activity on a clear day when flight training is at its highest in order to find out what you may experience living near the airport.

## ***Your Real Estate Agent***

Ensure that your real estate agent has the most current information regarding the airport and local development projects. Airport plans may change to meet current and future air transportation needs.



## ***The Flying Friendly Initiative***

The Flying Friendly Initiative – This initiative has been developed in a good faith effort to better educate the community, encourage pilots to fly friendly over Rock Hill and to provide a way for citizens to communicate with airport management. Initiatives include: zoning near the airport, citizen and pilot education, recommended noise reduction procedures, and a noise hotline.

## ***24-Hour Airport Noise Hotline: 803-329-8753***

The hotline was established in June 2016 as a means for neighboring residents to report unusual levels of aircraft noise or activity. The hotline is monitored regularly and atypical noise events are investigated by airport staff.

Please resist the urge to report every aircraft you see or hear. Aircraft operating at UZA may be seen and heard at least four miles from the airport on a regular basis and this type of reporting does little to help airport management identify and address atypical noise events.

## ***Contacting the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)***

As previously stated, ***the airport has no regulatory jurisdiction over aircraft in flight.*** If you believe that a specific aircraft is violating federal aviation regulations and would like to file an official complaint, contact the FAA's Southern Regional Ombudsman by email at [9-aso-noise@faa.gov](mailto:9-aso-noise@faa.gov) or by telephone at 202-267-8507.

