

# How Overnight Shipping Works For New FedEx Employees



This document explains how FedEx delivers packages overnight. It introduces you to how FedEx achieves its famous overnight shipping. As new team members, you are probably familiar with the company but not with what is involved in the long-distance transport of overnight cargo.

FedEx is the largest cargo (goods transport) airline in the world, with 664 Express aircraft flying to more than 375 airports in over 220 global locations, carrying 6 million packages each day (Cunningham).

Memphis, Tennessee, was selected as the main FedEx hub because it is near the mean population center of the United States (How Overnight Shipping Works). The mean population center is the average location of every person located within the United States. This 832-acre complex is called the FedEx Superhub (How UPS, FedEx Move).

Some 150 planes fly into the Superhub from around the world between 10:00 P.M. and 1:00 A.M. Packages are unloaded to staging areas within 15 minutes, ready to be loaded onto other planes. Fully loaded planes leave the Superhub between 2:00 A.M. and 4:00 A.M., bound for secondary hubs like Oakland, California, which serves the West Coast. From the secondary hubs, cargo headed for smaller cities and towns is loaded onto smaller propeller planes, then finally onto delivery trucks for their final destinations. Virtually any town in the U.S. can have their packages by 9:00 A.M. (How Overnight Shipping Works).



The hub in Anchorage, Alaska, which is the fourth busiest cargo airport in the world, serves as a convenient and efficient stop between the United States and Asia. Most cargo aircraft use this airport for refueling and crew changes. FedEx also uses the Anchorage hub as a destination for flights inbound from many Asian hubs. The inbound cargo is cleared through customs, then sorted and loaded onto planes bound for hubs in the continental U.S. (How Overnight Shipping Works).



Unlike commercial passenger aircraft, FedEx cargo planes only fly for a few hours each day. This seemingly inefficient use of capital (machinery or equipment) means the planes are not being fully utilized. However, FedEx keeps these capital costs down by purchasing old aircraft near the end of their usefulness, making them relatively inexpensive. Any newer planes purchased are more fuel-efficient and used on the longest international flights (How Overnight Shipping Works).

Many millions of people rely on FedEx to get their packages to their destinations safely and on time. That goal would not be possible without the more than 220,000 valued team members at FedEx worldwide (Cunningham).

## **Works Cited**

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