

CertAlert

DOT/Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region Airports Division,
Airport Certification Safety Team, P.O. Box 20636, ASO-620, Atlanta, Georgia 30320
(404) 305-6700 (404) 305-6730 FAX

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This CertAlert pertains to:
All 14 CFR part 139 Airport Operators

Who picks up your trash?

Today is a good time for a review of the importance of runway safety and what you could do to prevent runway incursions. We can't always anticipate the different scenarios that can cause a vehicle deviation. We had a vehicle deviation in the Southern Region recently and similar situations have occurred more than a couple of times. We want to share it with you in hopes that you will consider if this could happen at your airport.

The incident

Air Traffic Control observed a truck driving on an active taxiway heading southwest to a hangar without authorization. Airport police escorted the vehicle off the airport. The investigation revealed the driver of the truck was working for a sanitation company and was at the airport to empty dumpsters at various hangars. The driver was a substitute and was not as familiar with this route as the regular driver. In addition, construction activity was in progress blocking the driver's normal route of travel across the non-movement area. To avoid the construction area, the driver entered an active taxiway to get to the next dumpster.

The driver did receive the airport's ground vehicle training but this wasn't his regular route.

There was a sign prominently displayed and adjacent to the area in which this incident occurred that reads "No aircraft or vehicles beyond this point. Contact with Air Traffic Control is Required to Enter"

Airport officials advised all tenants and users of the construction.

Prevention

One way this incident could have been prevented was if the company contacted the airport for an escort because it was not the normal driver. What could you do today that may prevent an incident like this one at your airport?

Online Runway Safety Prevention Course

Another item we want to share with you is an online runway safety education course. It was a joint initiative sponsored by ALPA, the FAA, and the AOPA Air Safety Foundation. Find it under the Safety/Security tab of the main web page at www.alpha.org. This interactive program is designed to increase situational awareness in the airport environment and help reduce chances of being involved in a runway incursion

-- From your Safety Certification Team, FAA Southern Region