What Is A "Hot Spot?"

A "hot spot" is a runway safety related problem area or intersection on an airport. Typically it is a complex or confusing taxiway/taxiway or taxiway/runway intersection. A confusing condition may be compounded by a miscommunication between a controller and a pilot, and may cause an aircraft separation standard to be compromised. The area may have a history of surface incidents or the potential for surface incidents. This may be due to any mix of causes:

- *Airport geometry*
- *Ground traffic flow*
- *Markings, signage, or lighting*
- *Human factors*

Why Be Concerned About A Hot Spot?

If the aircraft separation standard is likely to be compromised, then the probability of a collision with another aircraft, vehicle or person is increased. Airport and air traffic management needs your input to identify the areas on the airport requiring special emphasis. Pilot input is particularly useful. It is better to report a potential safety problem than to overlook it and have an accident occur.
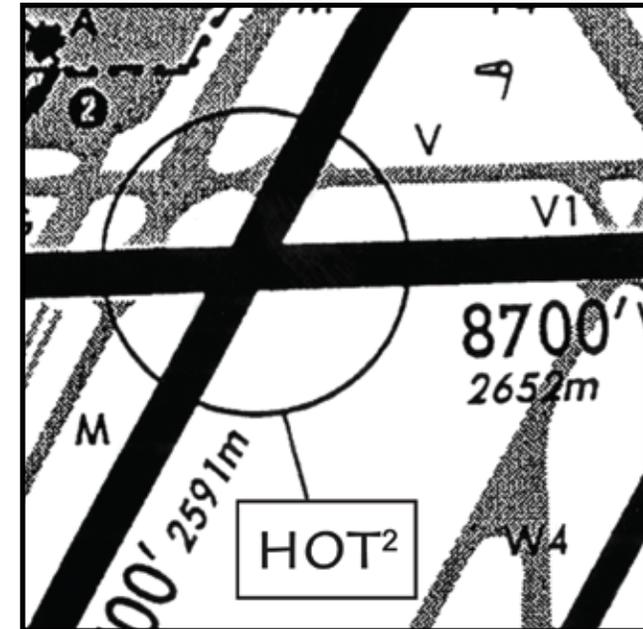
What To Do About A Hot Spot

Review of the runway safety related problem may result in various recommended solutions, both short-term and long-term, that need to be addressed in a broader forum, since they will affect airport users. For this reason, it is recommended that areas of concern be brought to the attention of airport management, and to air traffic management at towered airports.

What Can Be Done Immediately?

It may take a considerable length to time to fix or improve a "hot spot." Nevertheless, identification of and communication about the problem is important. Following notification to airport officials and FAA authorities, dissemination of the "hot spot" situation can occur via various methods including:

- *Issuance of a local "hot spot" notice as a flyer or brochure for distribution to airport users*
- *A safety briefing on the problem area for local pilots and ground vehicle operators*
- *Request that Jeppesen depict the "hot spot" on its diagram for that airport*

What Can You Do?

If you should be aware of any locations on an airport that warrant extreme caution because of complex airport geometry and/or potential pilot disorientation, do not hesitate to inform airport or air traffic management. We need your participation to reduce airport surface incidents, particularly runway incursions. Report:

- *Confusing pavement intersections*

- *Unclear pavement markings or lighting*

- *Perplexing/absent signage*

- *Distracting airport conditions*

- *Confusing air traffic procedures and communications*

What Is A Runway Incursion (RI)?

A runway incursion is any occurrence at an aerodrome involving the incorrect presence of an aircraft, vehicle or person on the protected area of a surface designated for the landing and take off of aircraft

Federal Aviation Administration
Air Traffic Organization
Office of Runway Safety
www.faa.gov/runwaysafety

OK-09-3619

FOCUS ON HOTSPOTS

--Prevent Runway Incursions--------