Federal Aviation Administration

Runway Safety - Vehicle Driver Best Practices

Best Practices for Airfield Safety - Vehicle Drivers

1. Review and understand airfield signage and markings.
2. Review the airport diagram prior to moving the vehicle. Have the airport diagram out and available for immediate reference while driving in the operational area.
3. Review current airfield information for any taxiway closures, runway closures, construction activity, or other surface risks.
4. Ensure appropriate vehicle lights (high beams, flashers, beacons, and strobes) are operational prior to driving in the operational area. Flashers and beacons help ATC, aircrew and other vehicle operators see vehicles in the operational area, especially during periods of reduced visibility and at night.
5. Use service roads whenever possible to minimize time spent on taxiways and runways.
6. During radio transmissions, use correct terminology and proper voice cadence.
7. Copy your clearance and review the assigned route. Read back all clearances.
8. Eliminate distractions while driving in the operational area. Do not use cell phones while driving in the operational area.
9. Focus attention and have your "eyes out" of the vehicle.
10. Maintain appropriate speed.
11. Be alert to similar aircraft and vehicle call signs operating on the field.
12. STOP the vehicle on the taxiway and request ATC clarification if there is confusion regarding your position or your clearance.
13. When cleared to cross any runway or taxiway, first visually check to ensure there is no conflicting traffic. If there is any doubt that the runway is clear, reconfirm crossing clearance with ATC
14. Note that if you see an aircraft in take-off position on a runway with take-off/landing lights ON, that aircraft has most likely received its take-off clearance and will be departing immediately.
15. If your radio fails while you're in the operational area and the tower is open, alert the controllers by flashing your high/low beams towards the tower. They will respond using the light gun: solid red means stop where you are; solid green means cleared to cross, proceed or go. If the tower is closed, visually clear your route and exit the operational area as quickly as possible.
16. If the tower is closed, broadcast your location and intent on the CTAF.

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