



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Runway Safety Program Office
Southern Region

P.O. Box 20636
Atlanta, Georgia 30320-0631

March 30, 2007

TO: Aviation Community

The frequency of Runway Incursions and Surface Incidents at Southern Region's airports has significantly increased, especially among pilots, by approximately 50% from the previous year. For fiscal year 2007 to date, the total number of runway incursions from pilot deviations is 33, as compared to 17 in fiscal year 2006.

Safety is our #1 priority and runway safety is everyone's business! We need your support in enhancing surface safety and awareness to reduce the high number of incidents that are taking place on the airport surface.

Pilot and Flight Crew procedures during taxi operations should include:

- Pre-Taxi Planning (Always have a current airport diagram)
- Write Down Taxi Instructions (Reduce forgetting complex instructions)
- Maintain Situational Awareness (Look, Listen, ASK, if in doubt)
- Coordinate Crew Communications (On taxi instructions for takeoff, etc)
- Maintain the "Communication Loop" (Focus and clarify any misunderstanding/confusion)

Complacency, inattentiveness, lack of knowledge about airport signage, marking, lighting, and lack of good pre-flight preparation (i.e. current airport diagrams) are some of the major causal factors for runway incursions.

You can help keep surface incidents from happening at airports by supporting runway safety education, training and awareness programs and participating in pilot/controller safety forums/seminars that are held in your area.

If you have any safety concerns, recommendations and/or input, feel free to call us at **(404) 305-5593**, or e-mail us at 9-ASO-Runway-Safety@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna B. Cohen".

Manager, Southern Region Runway Safety Program