

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Aviation Administration**

Houston Hobby Air Traffic Control Tower  
8410 Lockheed Avenue  
Houston, Texas 77061

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Hobby Air Traffic Control Tower

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Letter to Airmen: LTA-HOU-1

Subject: HOU Runway Safety / Incursion Awareness

Runway Safety continues to be one of the FAA's highest priorities and encompasses pilots, air traffic controllers and airport vehicle drivers.

What is a Runway Incursion?

- 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.

Unfortunately, Houston Hobby Airport has been among the Top 5 airports across the country with the highest number of runway incursions for the past 2 years. Although Hobby runway incursion causal factors and trends vary greatly, some common causal factors across the country include:

- Pilot unfamiliarity with an airport
- Challenging airport geometry/Hot-Spots
- Pilot failure to review airport diagram prior to taxi
- Failure to comply with ATC instructions
- Pilot/Controller read-back / hear-back errors
- Perplexing air traffic taxi instructions

In an effort to reduce runway incursions at Houston Hobby airport, the Hobby air traffic control team is requesting that all pilots operating in and out of Houston Hobby airport exercise the highest level of cockpit situational awareness while taxiing to or from runways or while transiting any designated movement area. Additionally, it is requested that pilots clarify any air traffic communications or instructions that are unclear or questionable. When in doubt, always ask.

As a team of aviation professionals (pilots and controllers) committed to the highest level of situational awareness and attention to detail, we jointly hold the key towards effectively changing Houston Hobby's runway incursion trends for the better.

The Hobby air traffic control tower remains committed to providing the safest and most efficient air traffic service possible for users in and out of Houston Hobby airport. Our doors are always open for controller/pilot meetings, local air traffic familiarization briefings and to answer any questions you may have regarding Hobby air traffic services.

Respectfully,



Andre' Harris  
Air Traffic Manager  
Houston Hobby ATCT  
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