

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Hillsboro Tower
3119 NE Cornell Rd
Hillsboro, OR 97124

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Hillsboro Tower

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Letter to Airmen: LTA-HIO-6

Subject: Subject: Enhancing Safety Awareness/Training

Cancellation: 12/03/2026 1200 (UTC)

Background: The Portland-Hillsboro Airport (KHIO) has numerous construction/expansion projects within the surrounding area that have introduced safety concerns due to cranes.

Cranes increase the risk of safety related incidents while operating in the airport environment.

KHIO offers a unique training environment due to its closely spaced parallel runways and proximity to numerous crane obstructions. Flight instructors are encouraged to adhere to tighter training parameters when conducting approaches to all runways while balancing the task of avoiding obstructions around the airport, particularly within 1NM of the airport.

The limited reaction time and proximity of the runways in conjunction with these obstructions necessitates heightened vigilance during approaches/traffic pattern work. Flight instructors should be prepared to assume control of the aircraft at any time to prevent a proximity event, runway overshoot, or confusion leading to a possible wrong surface operation (particularly within 1NM of the airport).

For instructors conducting Student Pilot Training at KHIO, the following guidelines are recommended:

- Prioritize pilot briefings with emphasis on Obstruction NOTAMS when expecting pattern work at KHIO.
- Ensure students understand the reduced tolerances and tighter parameters prior to flight.
- Manage distractions during the approach segment and while maneuvering.
- Maintain a sterile cockpit especially within 1 mile of the airport.
- Be alert to changes in runway assignments and clarify with the tower if needed.
- Be alert to pattern restrictions/changes and clarify with the tower if needed.
- Expect runway assignments from the tower during visual approaches.
- Familiarize students with KHIO Arrival Alert Notices for specific runways/taxiways.
- Review the KHIO Runway Safety Flight Deck video at: www.faa.gov/HIO

By following these guidelines, flight instructors can ensure safe and effective training operations at the Portland-Hillsboro Airport.

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