



FAA
Great Lakes Region, Airports Division
Safety Standards Branch

Airport Certification Information Bulletin (ACIB) 2013-03

Subject: Winter Operations Safety Reminder

We would like this opportunity to re-emphasize the importance of communications, particularly as it relates to winter operational activities on the airfield. Effective communications will ensure a safe and efficient operating environment

REMINDER...

- When conducting snow removal activities on the airfield, it is imperative to clearly communicate your intentions.
- Closing a surface (runway, taxiway, ramps) via NOTAM when conducting snow removal operations is absolutely the best practice to ensure a safe operating environment.
- When the closure of a surface is not operationally functional, a NOTAM should be issued advising of snow removal activities on the airfield.
- Care should be taken that these and other NOTAM advisories are representative of current activities and conditions, and should be cancelled when the advisory is no longer applicable.

Airports with an ATCT:

- Do not assume that the ATCT will maintain visual control of your activities.
- Monitor the frequency as directed by the ATCT. Whenever possible, also monitor other relative frequencies that may impact the areas you are currently operating on or will be operating in.
- Situational awareness is key, always be aware your environment and the surface you have clearance to operate on. Human factors can also affect the ATCT, which is why it is important to be aware of the clearances issued to other operators on the airfield.
- Periodically reconfirm the clearances you have been given when operating on a surface for an extended period of time (taking note of changes in ATCT personnel you are working with).

Airports without an ATCT (including airports during periods when the ATCT is closed):

- Vehicle operators should repeatedly self-announce their position and intentions. Broadcasting multiple times during your operation on the airfield will inform other users of your location that may not have been on frequency during your initial and/or last communication.
 - Monitor the overlying and local frequencies for approaching and departing aircraft.
 - Situational awareness is key, always be aware your environment. Aircraft have been known to arrive or depart without communicating their intentions.
 - Runway closures are strongly recommended when operating on runway for more than a short period of time. This is particularly a benefit at uncontrolled airports because of the lack of an additional safety layer that is provided by the ATCT.
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