This CertAlert pertains to:
All 14 CFR part 139 Airports
ATTN: Airfield Operations Department

Beware of Contractors!

Again we are experiencing an increase in surface incidents due to contractors working on airports. In most incidents, the contractors received drivers’ training and had valid airport identification. Sometimes that isn’t enough. Take a moment to review the items below and see what you can do at your airport to enhance safety.

We offer the following recommendations:

- Do you have strong consequences of non-compliance for contractors? Should they be increased?

- Are the airport rules and the consequences of non-compliance written in your construction contracts?

- Is the airport diagram correct? Are there any areas of the movement area that could be confusing to people who don’t drive the airfield regularly? Has anything changed recently? Meet with tower personnel to discuss any recent issues.

- Review the airport rules and regulations regarding driving on the movement area. Are any changes or enhancements needed? Do you have separate rules and regulations for contractors? Could they be enhanced?

- Hold regular monthly safety meetings to discuss construction or maintenance issues and to get input from the users. Include contractors and others involved with driving on the airfield.

- Review procedures for tug drivers, contractors, and emergency operations’ personnel (fire trucks, etc.).

- Always ask for everyone’s assistance in enhancing airfield safety and preventing runway incursions. Find ways to remind tenants and contractors to drive carefully and always talk to the tower controller. Always ask for clearance. Read-back controller instructions. Ask for progressive instructions.

- Spread the word around the airport to all tenants/users. Prevent runway incursions!

If you have any questions or need additional information, call your certification safety inspector. If you need any runway safety materials, please let us know.

-- From your Safety Certification Team, FAA Southern Region