

## Keep Communications Clear and Concise!

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A recent Southern Region vehicle deviation emphasizes the need to ensure that communications between vehicles and the control tower are clear and concise. On this occasion, a construction vehicle requested clearance to cross an active runway. This is not an unusual event - it happens every day at airports across the country. But any venture onto a movement area is still fraught with danger.

The air traffic controller instructed the vehicle to hold short of the runway. The driver of the vehicle, thinking he had heard the controller provide a clearance to cross, replied that he was crossing the runway. The controller, busy with other activities, acknowledged the transmission but failed to correct the erroneous reply by the vehicle.

Each party heard what they expected or wanted to hear, not what was actually said. The result of this miscommunication was a very close call as the vehicle was crossing the runway while an aircraft was on takeoff roll. They came within a few thousand feet of each other - too close for comfort. Anytime you venture onto a movement area you are exposed to risk and danger - regardless of your experience level. Remember, from the General to the Private, we all make mistakes. Here are a few simple rules for you and the personnel who work for you to remember.

- Listen before you transmit
- Think before keying your transmitter
- Never assume that you know
- Read back all hold short instructions
- If you are unsure, ask again
- Keep your head on a swivel, scanning constantly for aircraft
- Aircraft always, ALWAYS, have the right of way!

