

# FAA SMS for Airports - Industry Day

## SMS Industry Panel

**Moderator:** Bunty Ramakrishna, FAA (**AVP-320**)

**Industry Panel:** **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Int'l Airport (ATL):** Scott Ayers

**Delta Air Lines (DAL):** Patricia Demasi and Tara Perez

**Tyler Pounds Regional Airport (TYR):** Stephen Thompson

**American Airlines (AA):** Melissa Leach

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU):** Dan McCune





Scott M. Ayers is the Airport Manager Safety Management at **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)**. His expertise are in developing and implementing an Airport SMS, emergency management, airport/airline operations, aeronautical science, Part 139 SMS Airport pilot studies, SMS Data Reporting, and airport management. **Email:** Scott.Ayers@atl.com



Patricia Demasi is the **General Manager for Safety Management System at Delta Air Lines**. Her expertise are in Aviation Safety, managing voluntary employee reporting systems, Just Culture, and providing oversight of the implementation, health, and effectiveness of SMS and seven different ASAP systems across the organization. **Email:** patricia.demasi@delta.com



Melissa Leach is the **Director, Safety Systems and Emergency Response at American Airlines**. Her expertise are in airport operations, Airport and Partner Planning & Analysis, and Reservations, Part 121 SMS, airport management, Customer Care, Customer Ops, Cargo, and Control Center policy & procedure, and Corporate Purchasing. **Email:** Melissa.Leach@aa.com



Tara Perez is the **General Manager, Corporate Safety at Delta Air Lines** in Atlanta, Georgia. Her expertise are in airport and station safety, emergency response, OSHA compliance, environmental safety, Part 121 SMS, and responsible for Delta's employee injuries, aircraft, and ground damages. **Email:** Tara.perez@delta.com



Steve Thompson leads the team of aviation professionals at the **Tyler Pounds Regional Airport**, a primary, Non-hub gateway to the world for East Texans. His airport team ensures the safe enplanement of over 40,000 passengers a year and provides a home base for 100 General Aviation Aircraft. Steve previously served as the Manager of Airport Safety at the Denver International Airport. **Email:** smthompson@tylertexas.com



Daniel M. McCune is currently **the Associate Vice President for safety for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**. Mr. McCune retired from the United States Army after serving 27 years. At every location, his one major goal has always been accident prevention through Human Factors and Safety Culture enhancement. **Email:** mccun711@erau.edu



Federal Aviation  
Administration

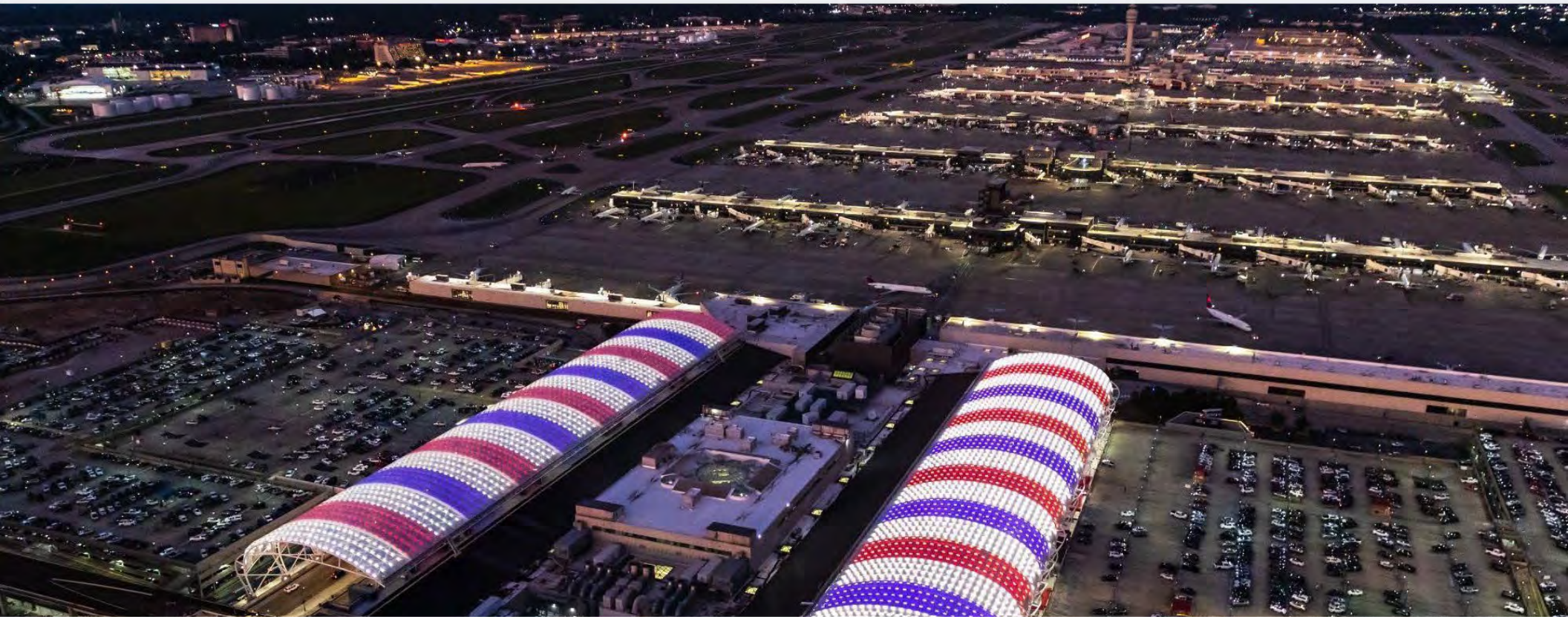


# ATL SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS)

## AIRPORT OVERVIEW

Presented by  
Scott Ayers, AAE, IAP, ACE  
SMS Manager

MARCH 30, 2023



MAYOR ANDRE DICKENS  
CITY OF ATLANTA



BALRAM "B" BHEODARI  
AIRPORT GENERAL MANAGER



# ATL

BY THE NUMBERS

4,700

ACRE CAMPUS

2

AUTOMATED TRAIN  
SYSTEMS

TERMINALS

2

9K

CONSOLIDATED  
RENTAL CAR CENTER  
SPACES

33K

ON-AIRPORT  
PARKING SPACES

3

INTERSTATE  
CONNECTIONS

18

CARGO  
CARRIERS

3

FUEL FARMS

198

GATES

7

CONCOURSES  
8.8M SQ. FT.

19

PASSENGER  
CARRIERS

5

PARALLEL  
RUNWAYS

\$2.3B

CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT  
ACTUAL SPEND

650K

SQ. FT. OF CARGO



# Overview

ATL's SMS Program is robust, driving excellence in safety policy, safety risk management, safety assurance and promotion. ATL's safety posture and culture serves as a model in the aviation industry.





# Airport Stakeholders

- Federal Government
- Local Government
- Police
- Fire
- Airlines
- Ground Handlers
- Concessions
- Employees
- Security
- Airline Customers

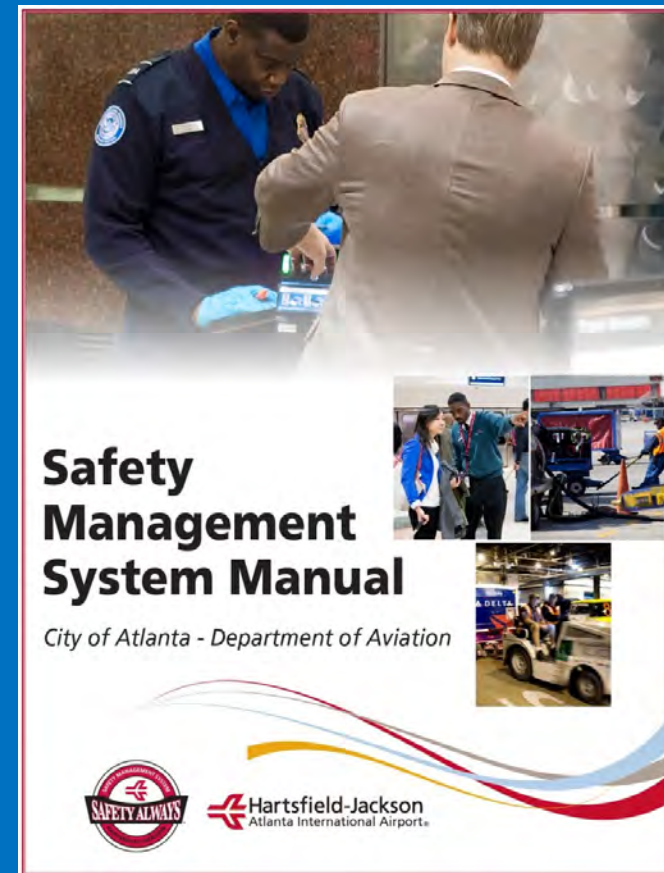




# Safety Policy and Objectives

## SMS Manual:

- **Is a key instrument** for communicating the organization-wide approach to safety
- **Documents all aspects of the SMS**, including the safety policy, objectives, procedures and individual safety responsibilities and outlines the safety data processes





# Accountable Executive

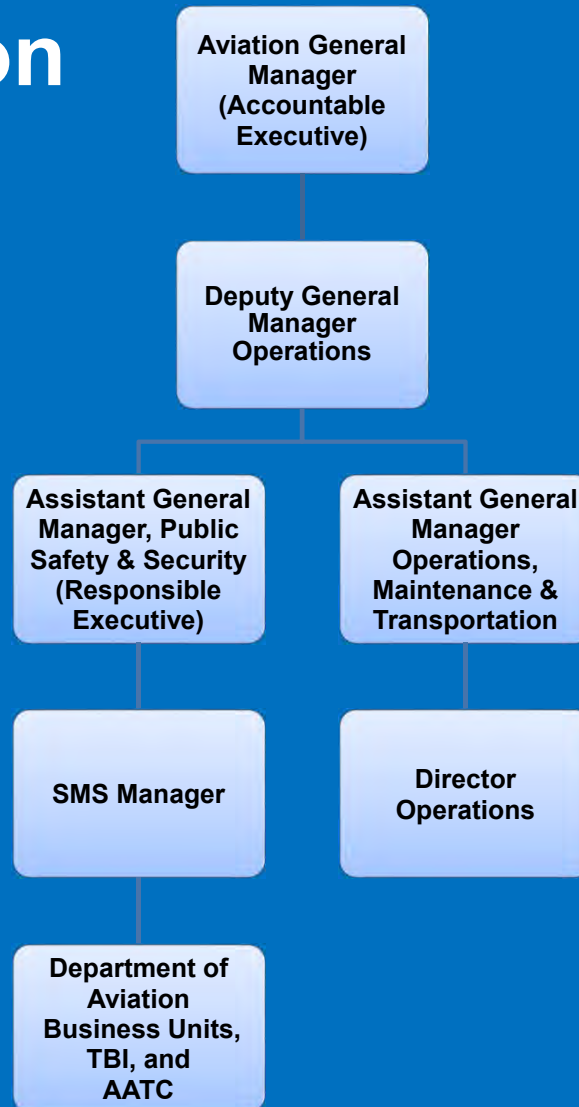
The Aviation General Manager is the Accountable Executive for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's Safety Management System.

The Aviation General Manager is responsible for:

- Developing and implementing a Safety Policy that identifies the City's safety objectives and its commitment to safety.
- Ensuring a Safety Management System is implemented at ATL.
- Assuming a leadership role to ensure commitment throughout the organization, specifically at the senior management level, and to implement the safety management policy and safety management system requirements.
- Ensuring that all Airport executives and staff are aware and held accountable for their safety performance.
- Ensuring that ATL's Safety Management System and operational performance are evaluated for effectiveness on a regular basis.



# SMS Organization





# Safety Action Group

- Exchanges information among Airport stakeholders
- Raises concerns to Airport officials; resolve through agreed voluntary action
- Offers a structured forum for discussion and common understanding between Airport stakeholders
- Shares information about Airport operations to committee participants





# Safety Always Bulletin Examples



## SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS) AT HARTSFIELD-JACKSON

March 2014

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) is implementing a Safety Management System (SMS), which the Federal Aviation Administration defines as a formal, top-down, organization-wide approach to managing safety risk and assuring the effectiveness of safety risk controls. It includes systematic procedures, practices, and policies for the management of safety risk.

As part of its SMS, the Airport has posted a confidential safety reporting system at the following Web address: <http://www.atlanta-airport.com/AirportSafetyManagementSMS-Form.aspx>


The confidential reporting form should be used to report non-emergency safety concerns at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. If the safety concern is an emergency, call 911 immediately. Airport employees should always report specific safety concerns related to their employers' operations through those organizations' defined safety reporting processes.

The types of safety reports received this past year includes hazardous conditions such as chipped and faded crosswalk markings; drivers not yielding right-of-way to an aircraft or emergency vehicle; smoking in a no-smoking zone on the ramp; and a driver hitting an airfield sign by the ramp roadway.

When a confidential report is submitted, the Aviation SMS Manager will investigate the situation and, if the report is validated, will forward it to the appropriate company safety representative for corrective action. The Aviation SMS Manager and stakeholders involved will work together to ensure corrective action is taken.


The Hartsfield-Jackson SMS slogan, "Safety Always!" means developing a culture in which every airport employee makes safety a key consideration every day. Every employee is responsible for communicating any information that may affect airport operations and for using the confidential reporting form to ensure that potential safety issues are addressed and corrected.





## Safety Bulletin

July 2018



Effective Aug. 13 2018, all personnel working in the Airport Operation Areas (AOA) and Security Identification Display Areas (SIDA) areas of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) will be required to wear reflective safety wear.

### Section 22-192. Reflective Safety Wear Standards

All employees, contractors, vendors, tenants and visitors must wear Reflective Safety Wear at all times in the performance of their assigned duties. This provision applies to the Air Operations Area, Movement Area, Non-Movement Area and Security Identification Display Area of the Airport as referenced in Section 22-191.





**Definition.**


- Reflective Safety Wear: Any clothing accepted as appropriate warning vests or other suitable garments marked with or made of reflectorized or high-visibility material that meets the requirement of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 107 Standard.

**Violation and Sanction System.**

- For the purposes of the violation and sanction system, violations of 22-192 shall be a Warning or Class I category.

Please refer to the Ramp Safety Standards Manual or email [rampsafety@atl.com](mailto:rampsafety@atl.com) for more information.





A PUBLICATION OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION

© City of Atlanta



# Airline SMS Interface

- Participate in airline safety meetings
- Participate in airline SMS meetings
- Data-sharing is limited in scope as de-identified data
- Stakeholders involved in Airport safety risk assessments





# Airline SMS Interface

- Data sharing
- Safety risk assessment coordination
- Ramp safety
- Confidential reporting
- Ground incidents and accident investigation coordination
- Safety assurance and promotion
- Safety culture





# SMS Data Reporting

## Benefits

- See the “big picture”
- Become knowledgeable and proactive
- Understand full scope of risk exposures and safety issues
- De-Identification
- Collaboration

## Challenges

- Freedom of Information Act
- Policies
- Consistent language





# Airport Safety Standards Manual

- City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances Section 22 Aviation
- FAR Part 139 Regulations
- Inform Airport-wide safety practices and initiatives
- Individual Enforcement
- Company Fines
- Ramp Safety Inspections
- Fire Safety Inspections
- Safety Observations





# Hazard Reporting

## Goal

- To inform all ATL employees of individual responsibilities and contributions toward safety culture

## Objectives

- More robust hazard reporting system
- More functionality for identifying and reporting safety hazards

Safety Report - ID 2349

[Edit](#) [Save](#) [Print](#) [Reference List](#) View: [Map](#) [Add Attachments](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#)

**Safety Report** [Reporter Contact Info](#)

Report Acknowledgement:

Facility: [Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport](#)

Description:

At the intersection of M.H. Jackson Service Rd at the North-South Connector intersection, on the south side of the intersection there is a stand of trees that completely blocks the view of vehicles traveling North on the North-South Connector. When stopped behind the line at the light of the North-South Connector facing north it is impossible for vehicle drivers to see if oncoming traffic is stopping for the light on M.H. Jackson Service Road until they have entered to intersection to see past the

Report Acknowledged: [Yes](#)


Report Acknowledged Date/Time: [04/29/2022 03:32 pm EDT](#)

Report is a Safety Hazard: [No](#)

Status: [Acknowledged](#)

Source: [Confidential Report](#)

Add Comments:





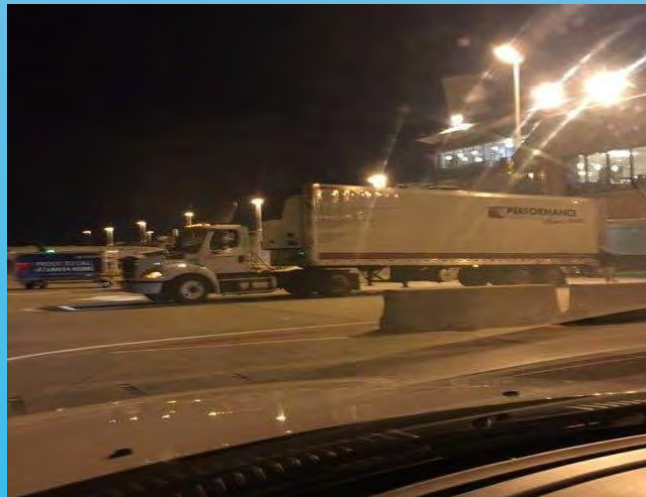
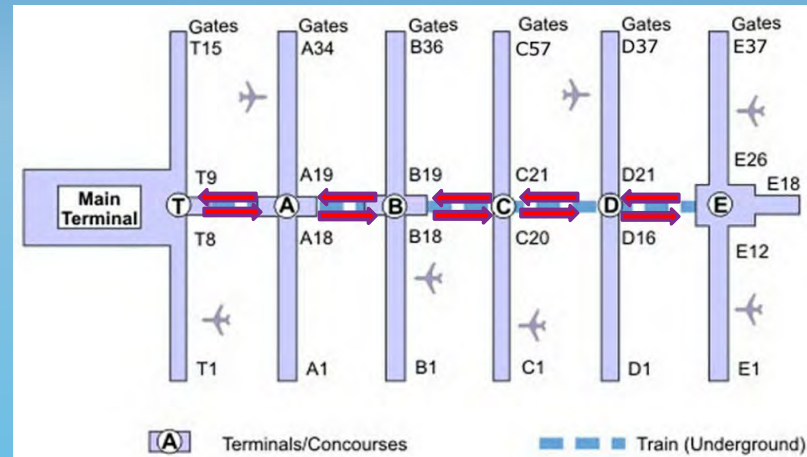
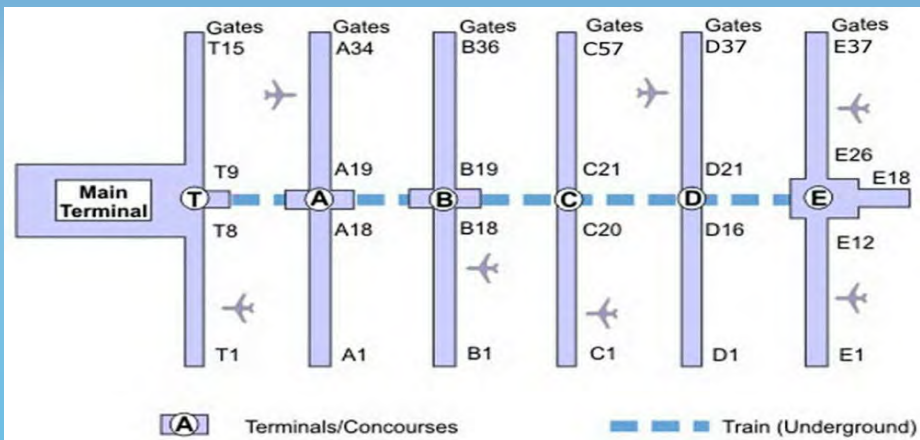
# DELIVERY TRUCK PARKING AT ATL

SCOTT AYERS – SMS MANAGER, ATL AIRPORT





Hazard reported: Overnight delivery trucks are parking in medians, creating a physical barrier at intersections





# RISK MITIGATIONS

Barriers were put in place to prevent unauthorized parking



Designated parking spots for daytime use by smaller delivery trucks



Trucks larger than 26' are prohibited from daytime deliveries.

Gate space on each concourse is designated for truck parking from 11p-5a nightly.





## STEP 4: MONITOR FOR EFFECTIVENESS

- Mitigation was put in place for 60 days monitoring period
- Even through significant IROPs, there were no reports of inability to provide gate space for parking
- Delta solicited feedback from the affected employees – all positive
- ATL DOA solicited feedback from DOA employees – all positive
- Funding for marshal agents was secured by DOA (place/remove cones; answer questions/gate cleanliness)





# DELTA'S SMS

MARCH 30, 2023



**SMS**  
SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM





# WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

TRISH DEMASI

*GENERAL MANAGER  
SMS & ASAP*

TARA PEREZ

*GENERAL MANAGER  
CORPORATE SAFETY*



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SAFETY IS AT THE CORE OF OUR VALUED CULTURE

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# STRATEGY





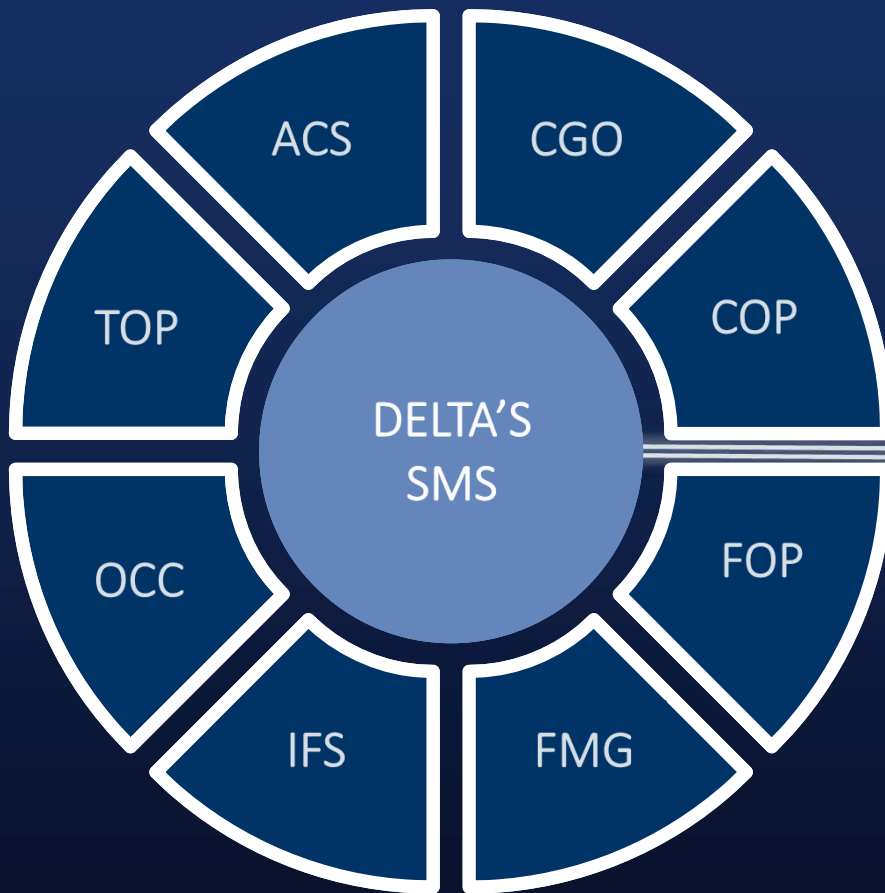








# SMS ACROSS DELTA



## CSSC

- Establishes Delta Standards & Expectations
- Ensures Program Compliance and Effectiveness

## Divisions

- Establish & Execute Divisional Procedures
- Ensure Procedural Compliance & Effectiveness



# DELTA SMS STRUCTURE

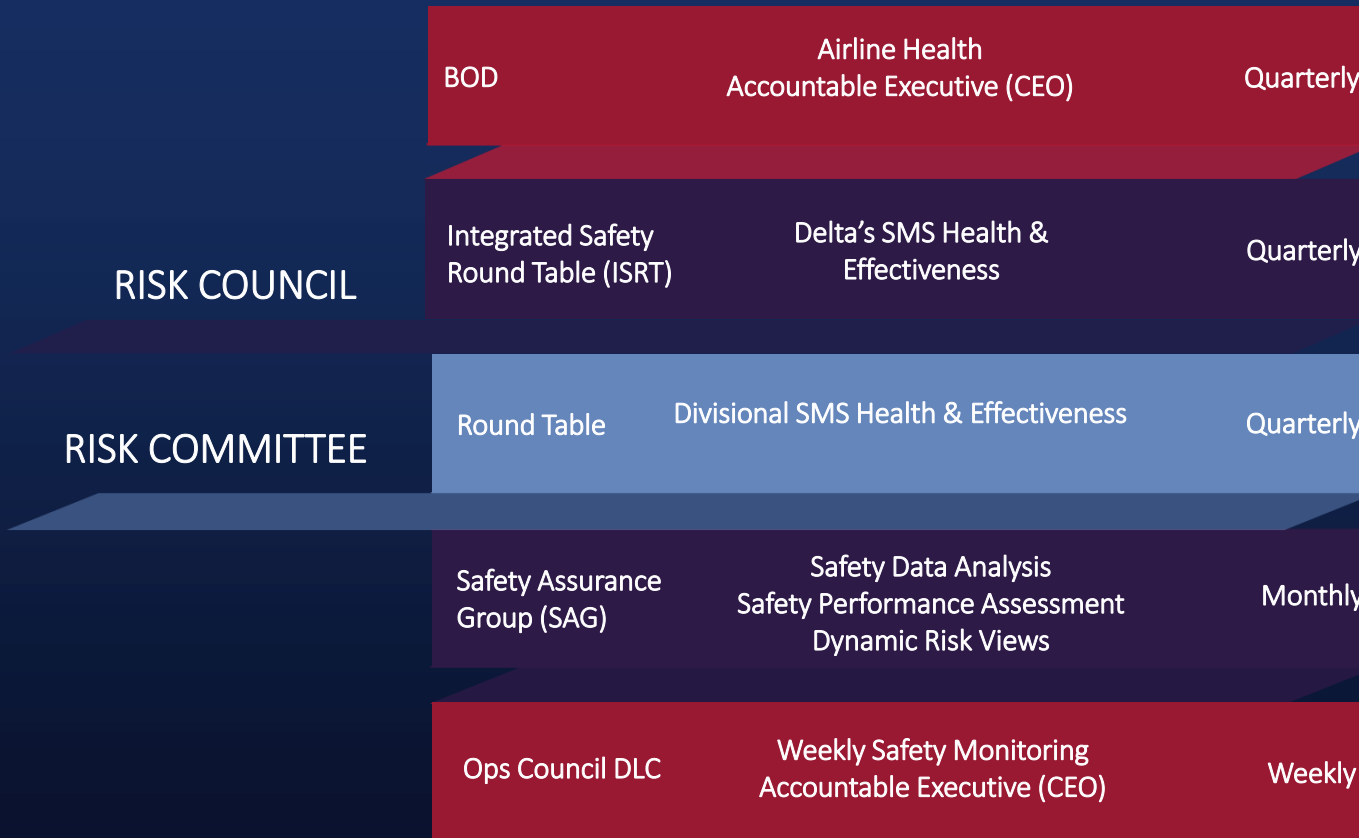
SAFETY POLICY





# SMS GOVERNANCE

## SAFETY POLICY





# RISK ACCEPTANCE AUTHORITY

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT

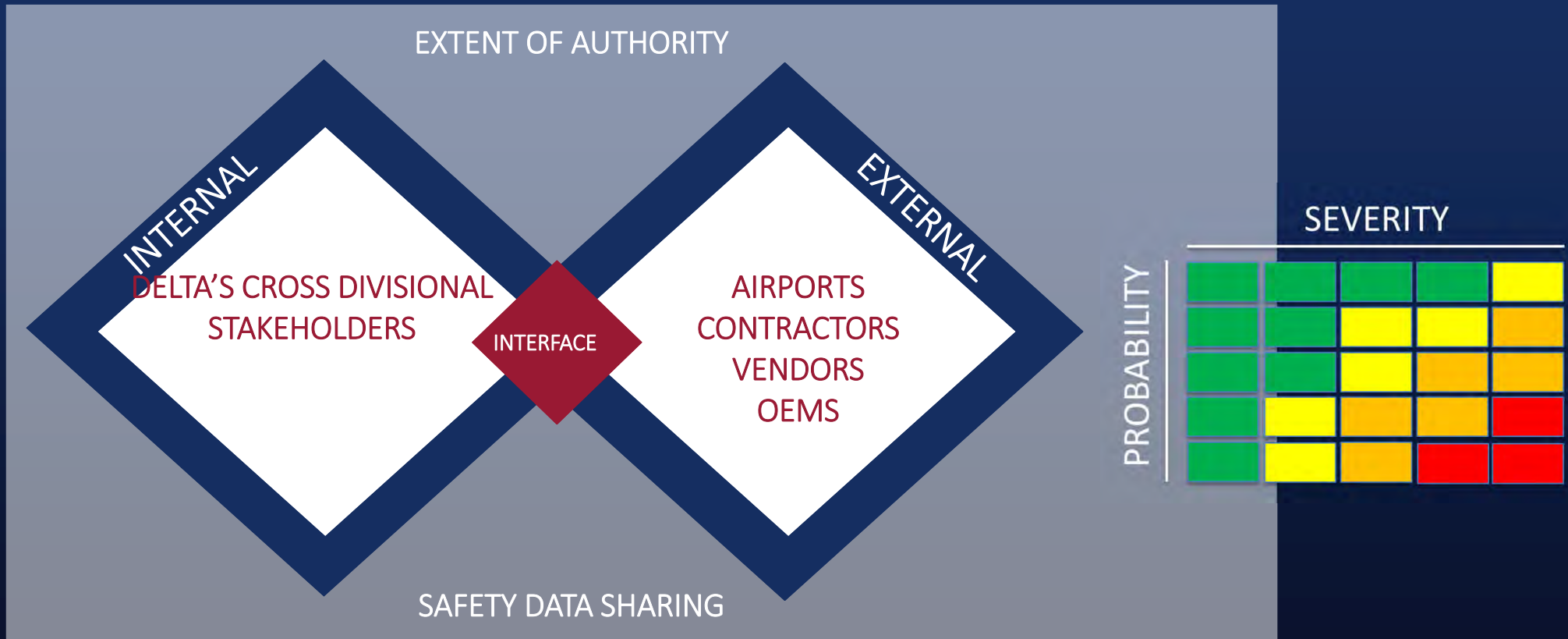


SEVERITY						
PROBABILITY						



# RISK ACCEPTANCE AUTHORITY

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT





# SAFETY REPORTING

SAFETY ASSURANCE





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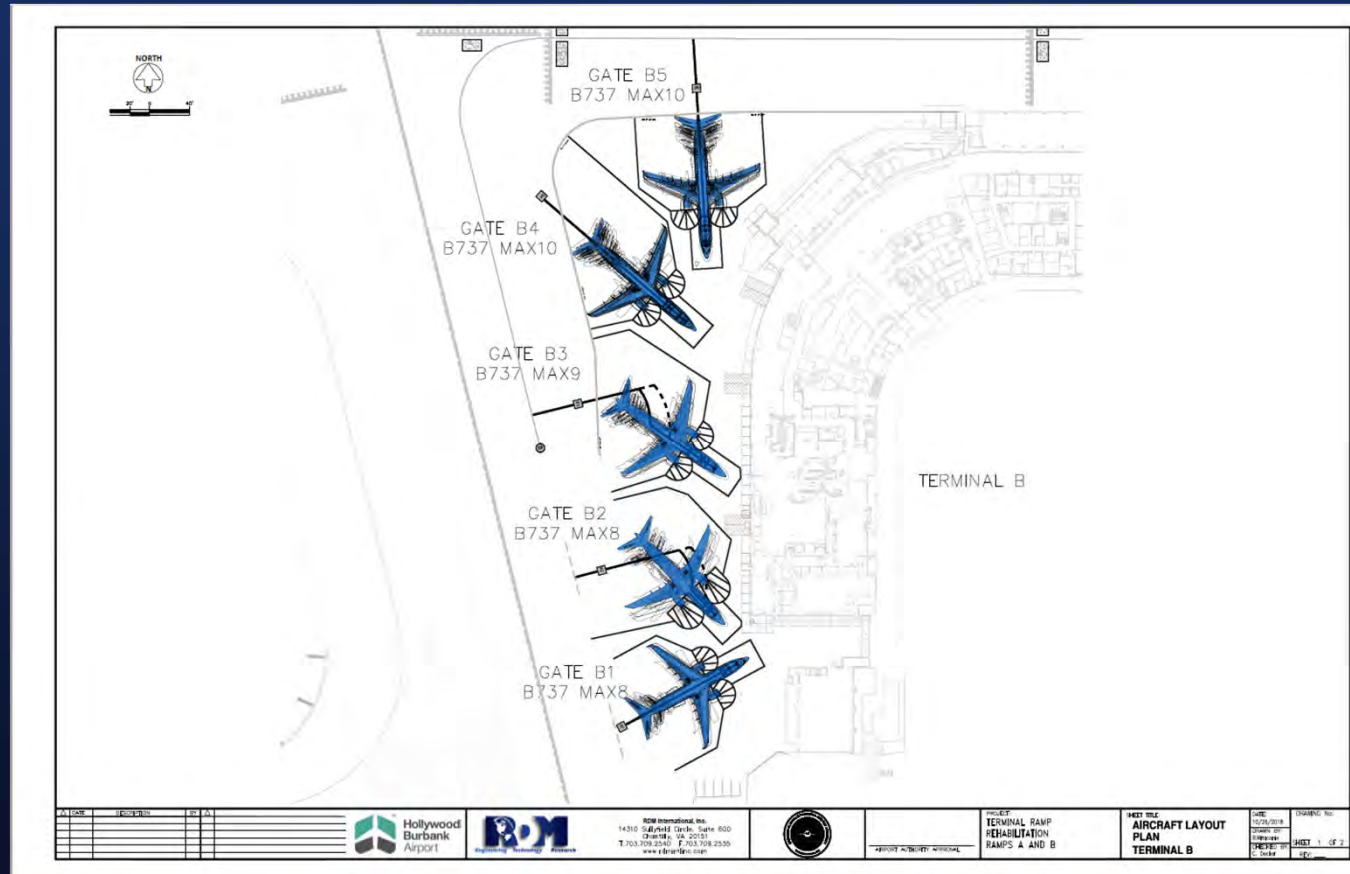
TO EXPLAIN THIS INTERFACE LETS LOOK AT AN SRM EXAMPLE

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# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

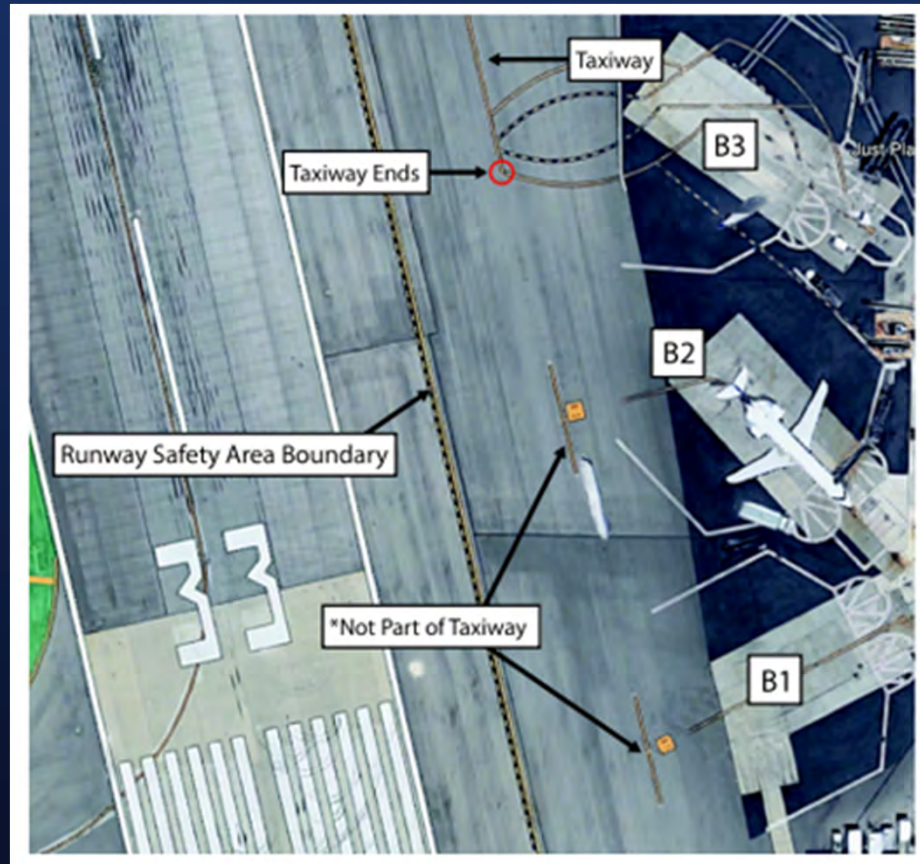
SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT





# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

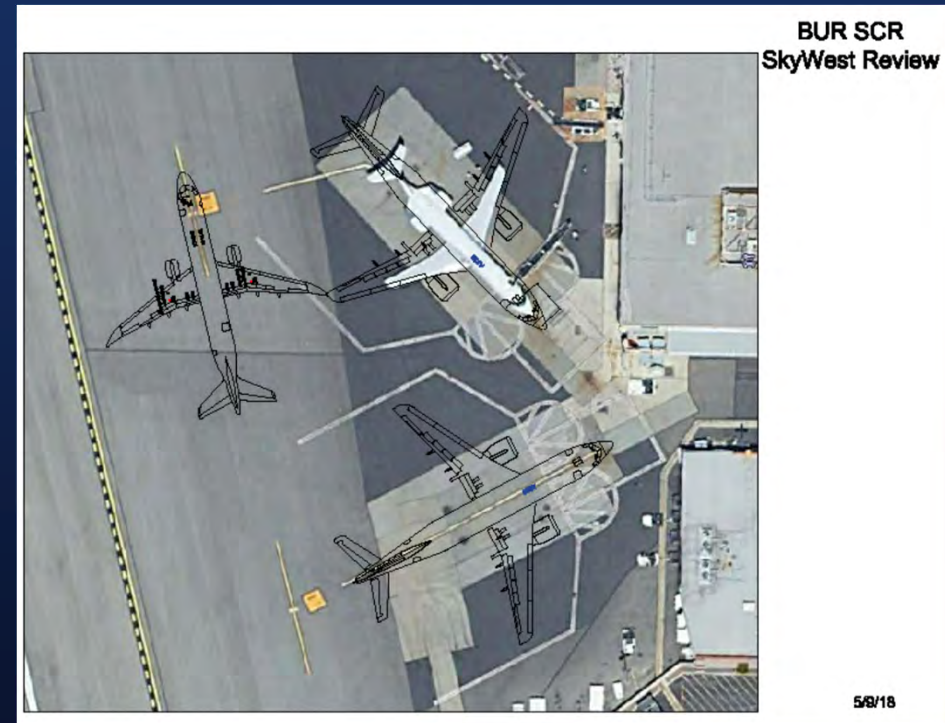
SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT





# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

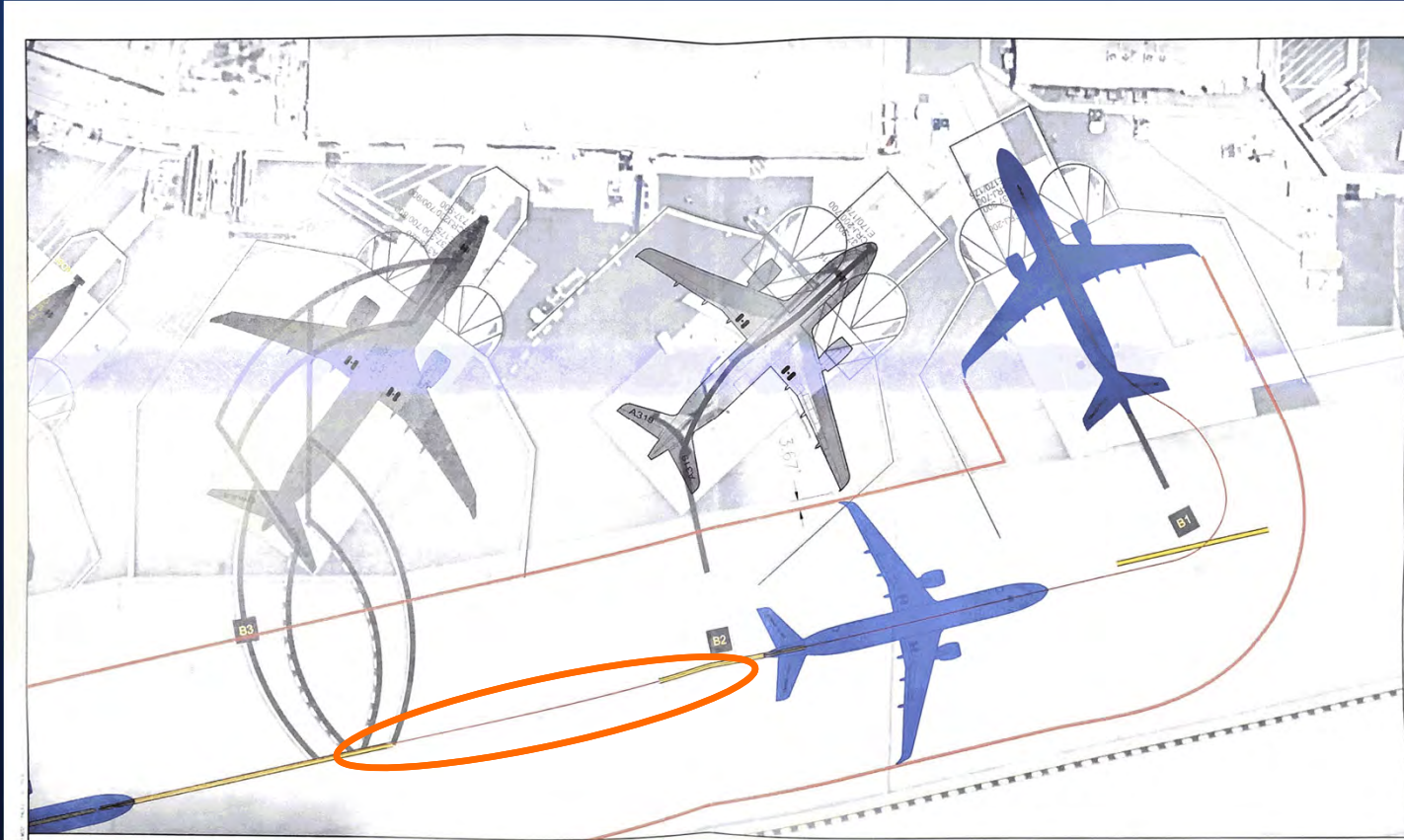
SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT





# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT





# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT

## RESULT

Winglet Damage due  
to collision

## ACTIONS

Cross Industry SRM

Actions owned by internal and  
external stakeholders





# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT



EXTENT OF  
AUTHORITY

DATA SHARING

**SIGN IN SHEET**

Meeting Name: BUR Review Date: 6/7/18

Company
FAA ATL
BGPANA
CAJ
Alaska
GAT
United
Skywest
Delta
Skywest
United
Delta
United
Skywest
Sky West
united
United
United



# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT

KBUR/BUR

**SkyWest**

BURBANK, CA  
HOPE

15 JUN 18 10-7C

**Airport Notes**  
**B Gates**  
Use caution when taxiing, specifically to/from Gates B1-B3 as the line that ends at Gate B3 may not provide sufficient clearance/guidance for aircraft parked at B3 and B2. In order to reach Gates B1 & B2, aircraft must taxi parallel with, and near the runway safety area boundary.  
Per the LOA with BUR Twr, operations on Rwy 15/33 are suspended when larger aircraft (larger than a CRJ200) are taxiing to/from Gates B1-B3.  
Anytime an aircraft is parked at Gate B2 or B3 and crews determine they may need to deviate from the taxi line to ensure clearance, contact ATC for permission.  
Pushback from all gates requires headset communication with ground crew.  
**NOTE** - The lines located directly behind Gates B1 & B2 are NOT part of the Twy, but are reference lines for the pushback crews. (Reference graphic below.)



NOT FOR TAXI OR NAVIGATION PURPOSES

Comments: pilotinfo107@skywest.com





# SRM- 2018 – DL | BUR AIRPORT

SAFETY POLICY | SAFETY RISK MANAGEMENT



KBUR/BUR

SkyWest

15 JUN 18 10-7C

BURBANK, CA  
HOPE

---

**Airport Notes**

[B Gates](#)

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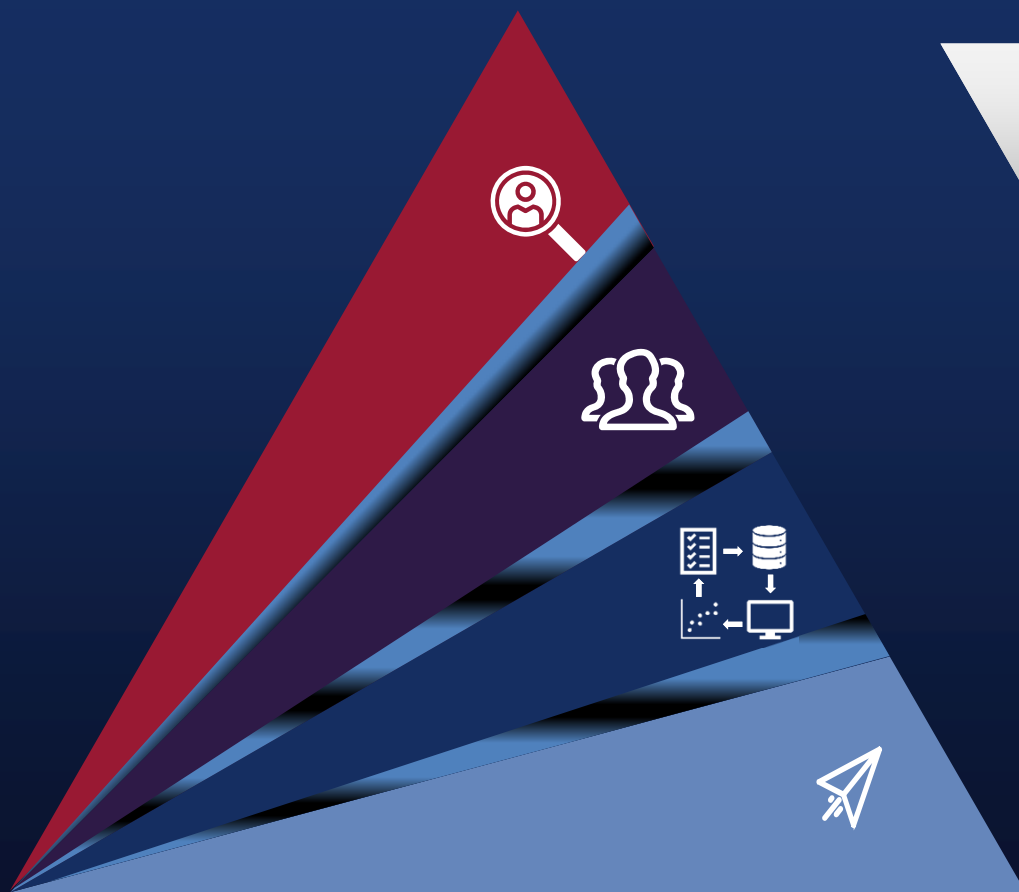


# LOOKING AHEAD





# SUCCESS FACTORS





# Safety Management Systems

Capitalizing on Resources at Small Airports





# Safety Culture – It Takes a Village

- Start with your people
  - Your best in-place resource
- Bigger is not always better
- Create a paradigm shift





# The Internal and Extended Teams

- What is the ideal size population to be 'manageable'?
- Create the program foundation
- Empower employees
- Leverage airline / corporate / FBO safety programs
- GA community – see something / say something
- SMS is the big fish in a little pond at small airports



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# Scalable Safety Risk Management

- An actionable component of SMS
- Manage rather than eliminate
- Becomes the norm / typical way of doing business
- Individual and collaborative mitigation





# Scalable Safety Risk Management

- Does not have to be complicated
- Front line mitigates risk
- Scenarios
  - Military unit deployment
  - RON parking
  - Wildlife management
  - Airfield construction - SRMP
- Forms a cadre for SRA panels

## ORM REMINDER CARD

1. What's gonna hurt ya?  
Look around you.  
What's likely to hurt you?  
What's hurt you before?  
Pick something!
2. How often and how bad is it gonna hurt ya?  
How likely is it to hurt you (again)?  
How Bad will it hurt you?  
Not?  
Pick something else.  
Very likely or badly?  
Go to step 3.
3. What ya gonna do about it?  
What can you do keep it from hurting you (again)?  
Stay away from it?  
Move it?  
Make it go away?





# Drive Accountability

- Component of the paradigm shift
- Doing the right thing...
- It's YOUR airport
- Sweat the small stuff
- Visible source of data
- Safety Assurance
  - Audits, Gemba Walks
- Documentation





# From Paradigm to Program

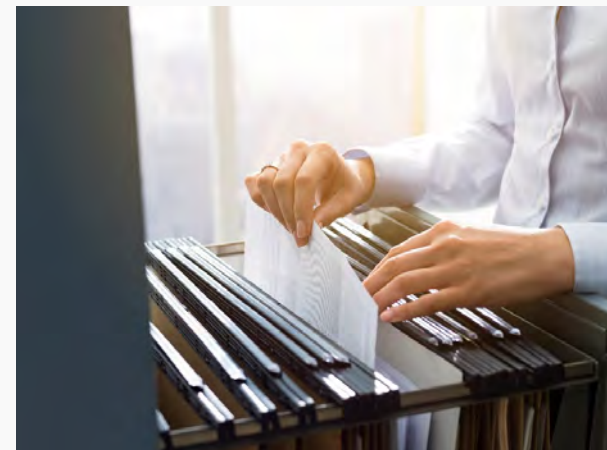
- You are likely partway there
- Leverage existing programs
  - Airfield Inspections
  - Wildlife Inspections
  - Construction CSPP
  - Occupational Safety
- FAA resources
  - Pilot studies, desk references, ACRP/TRB reports
- Peer airports – Working together





# Program Components

- Framework / documentation
- Safety Policy
- Methods for identifying hazards and mitigating risk
- Methods for insuring continuous safety improvement
- Organization-wide safety promotion





# Safety Culture – It Takes a Village

- People make the difference
- We are all risk managers
- Early buy-in is critical





# American Airlines SMS

**Melissa Leach**

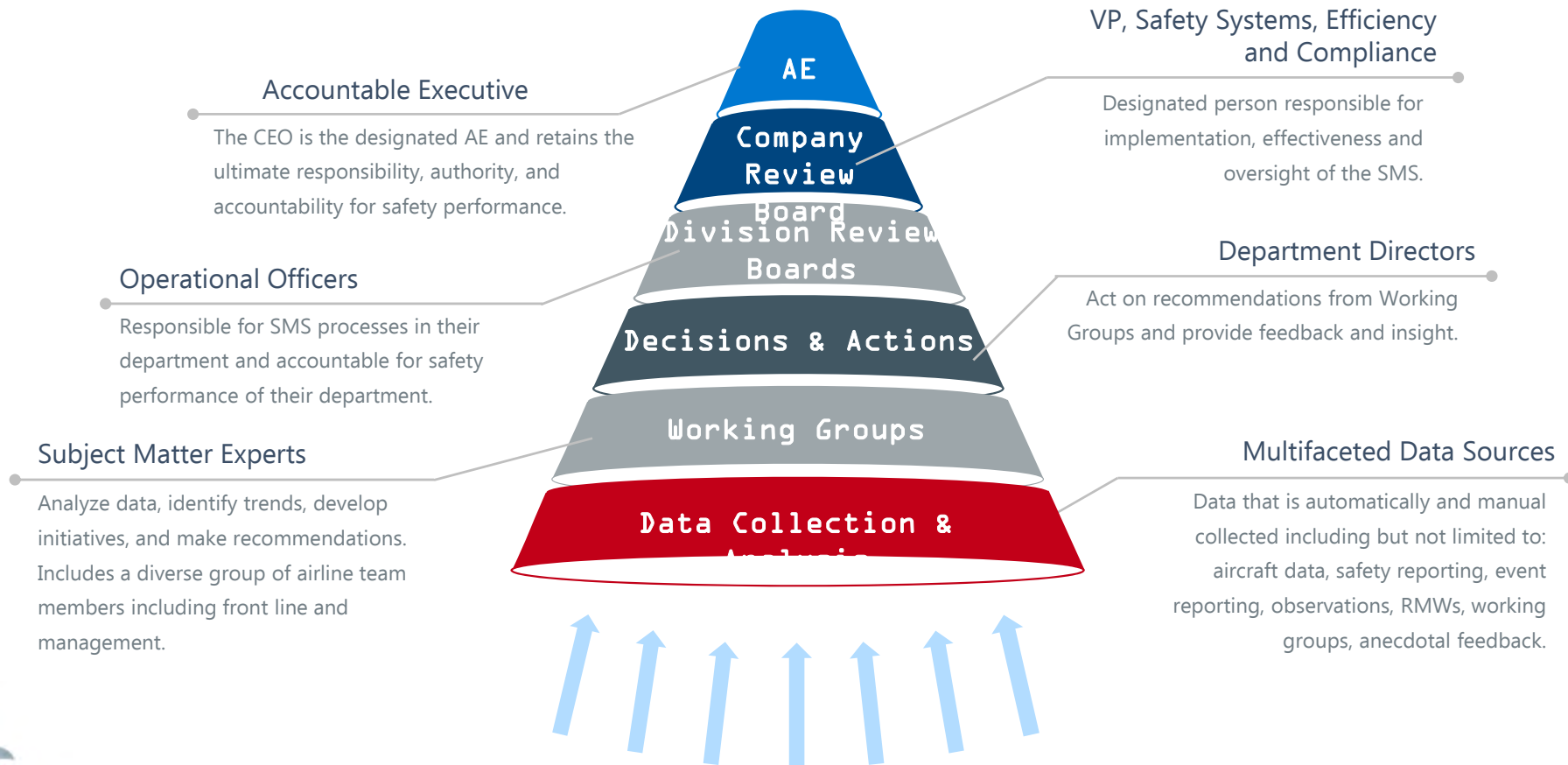
**Director, Safety Systems and Emergency Response**





# American Airlines SMS Overview

Top-down, organization-wide approach to managing risk and ensuring the effectiveness of risk control.





# Airline / Airport Collaboration on aircraft damage prevention



**01**

**Damage  
Reported**

**02**

**Investigation  
Begins**

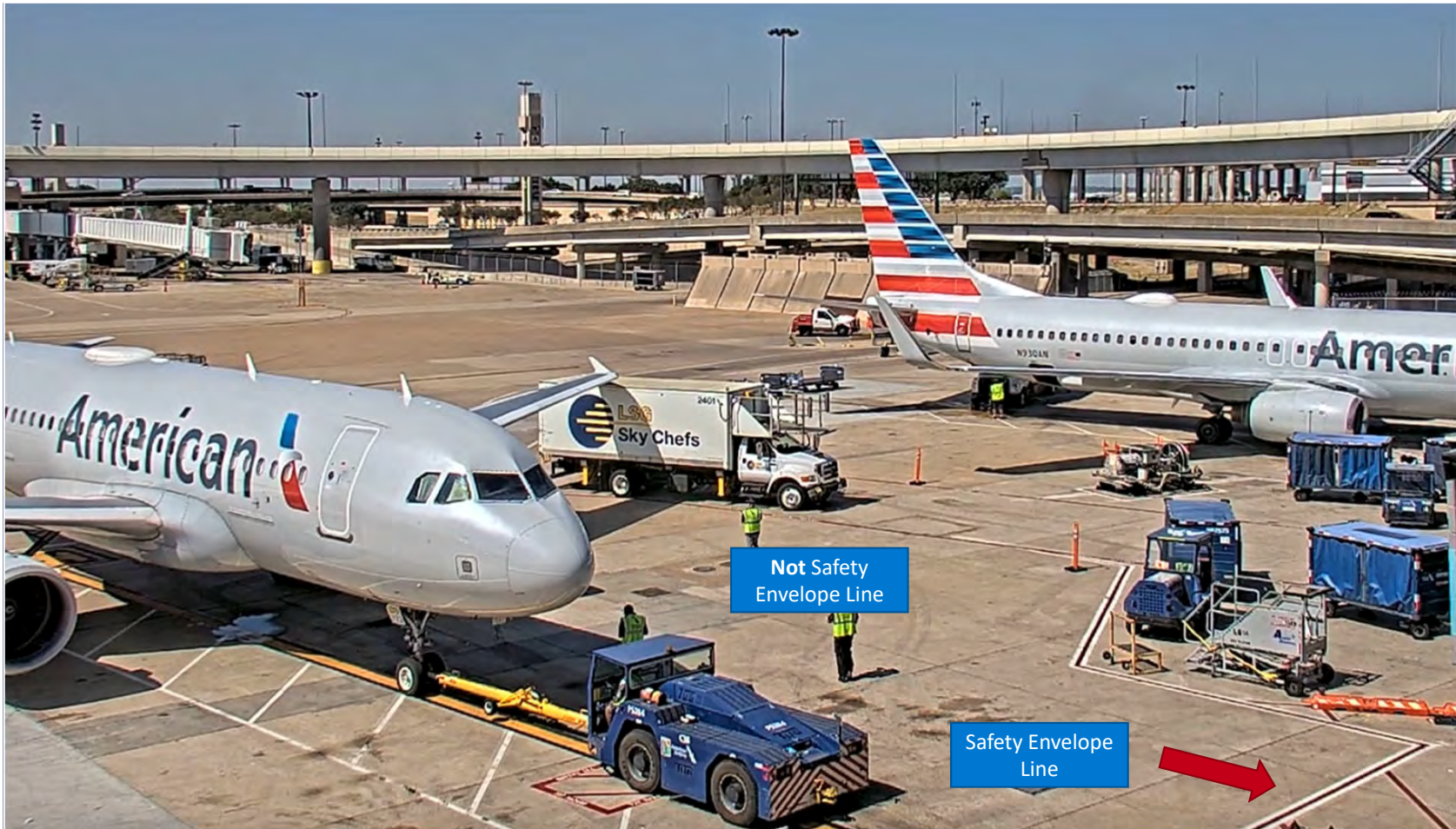
**03**

**Recommendations  
Developed**

**04**

**Airline / Airport  
Collaboration on  
implementation**









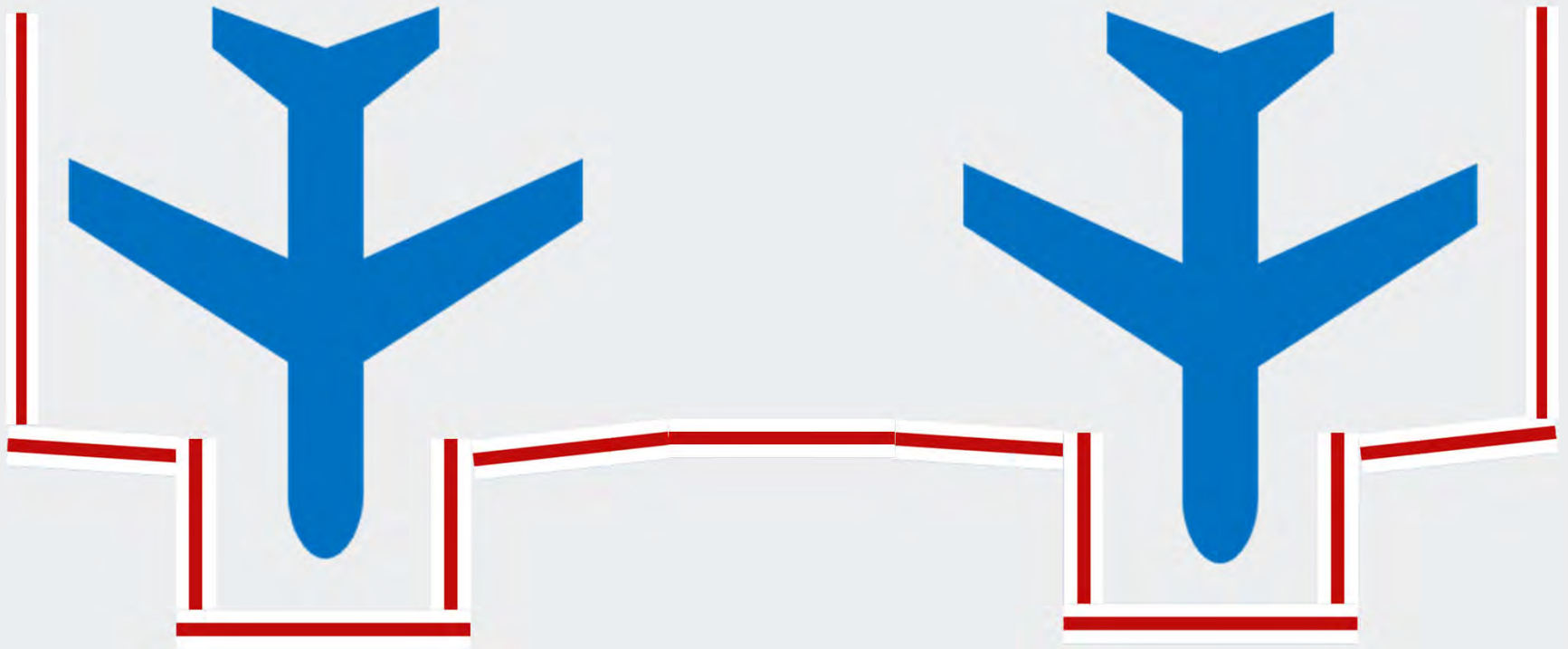


*Standard Single Gate Safety Envelope*





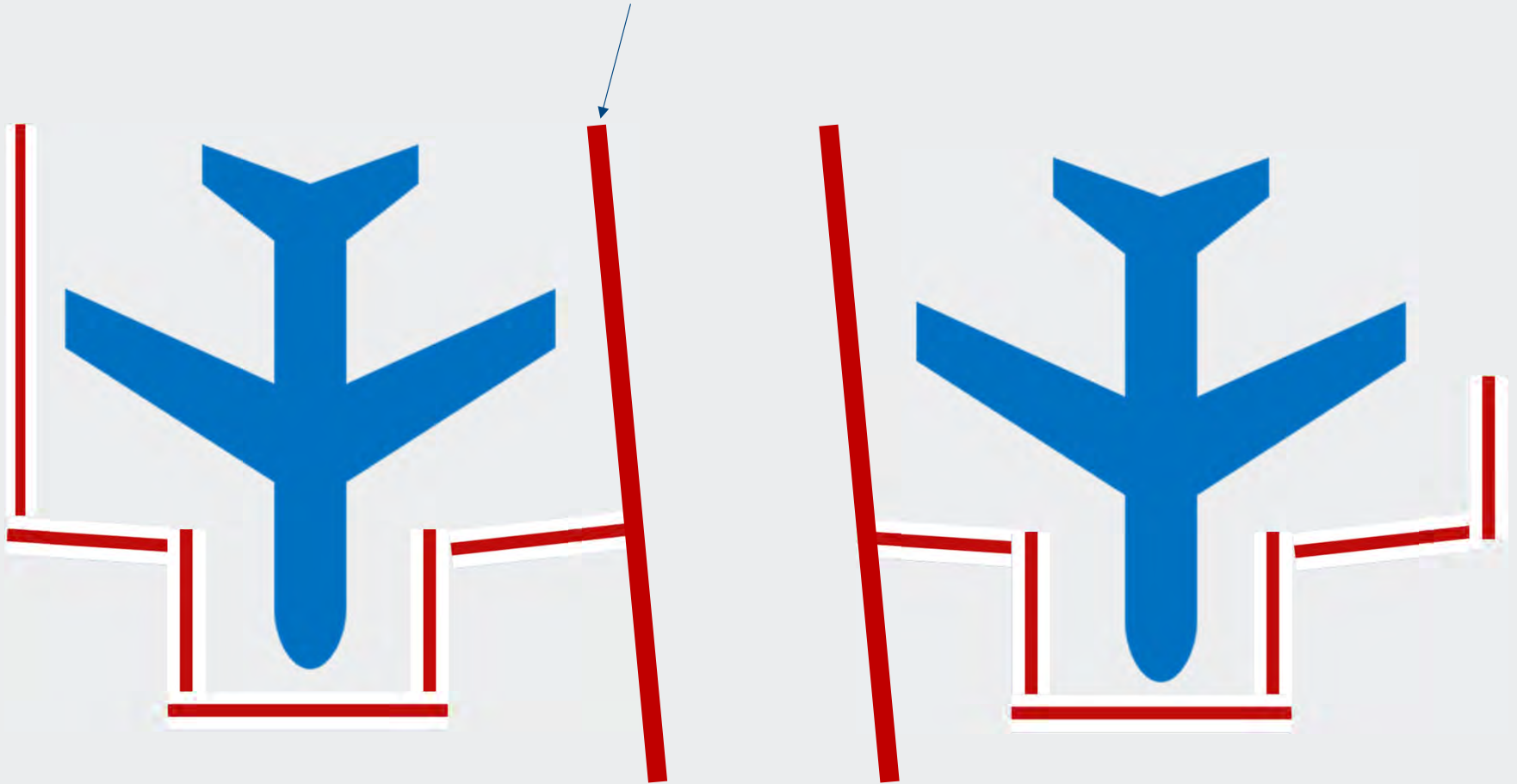
## *Standard Dual Gate Safety Envelope*





*At time of event*

*Fire Lane*  
*(controlled by DFW fire marshals)*



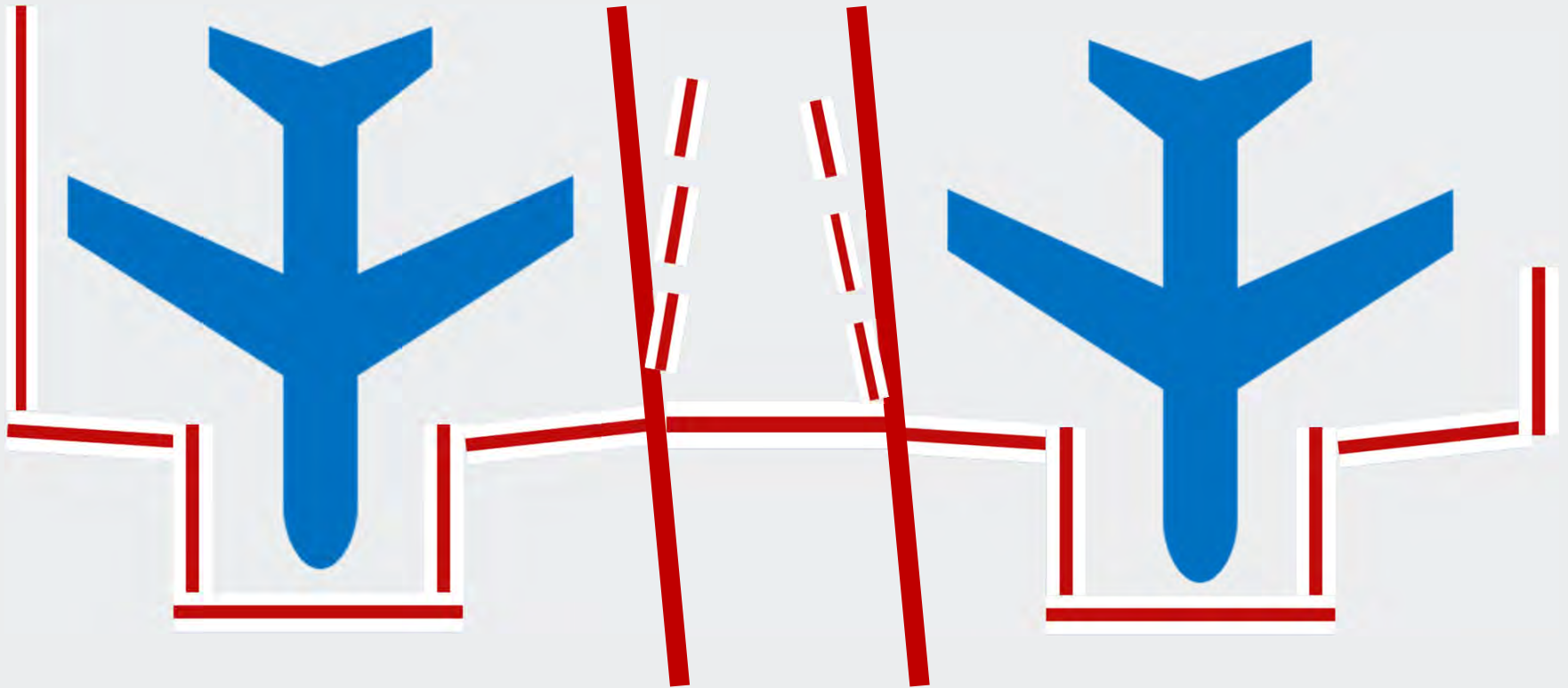


# Proposals to Airport / Fire Marshalls





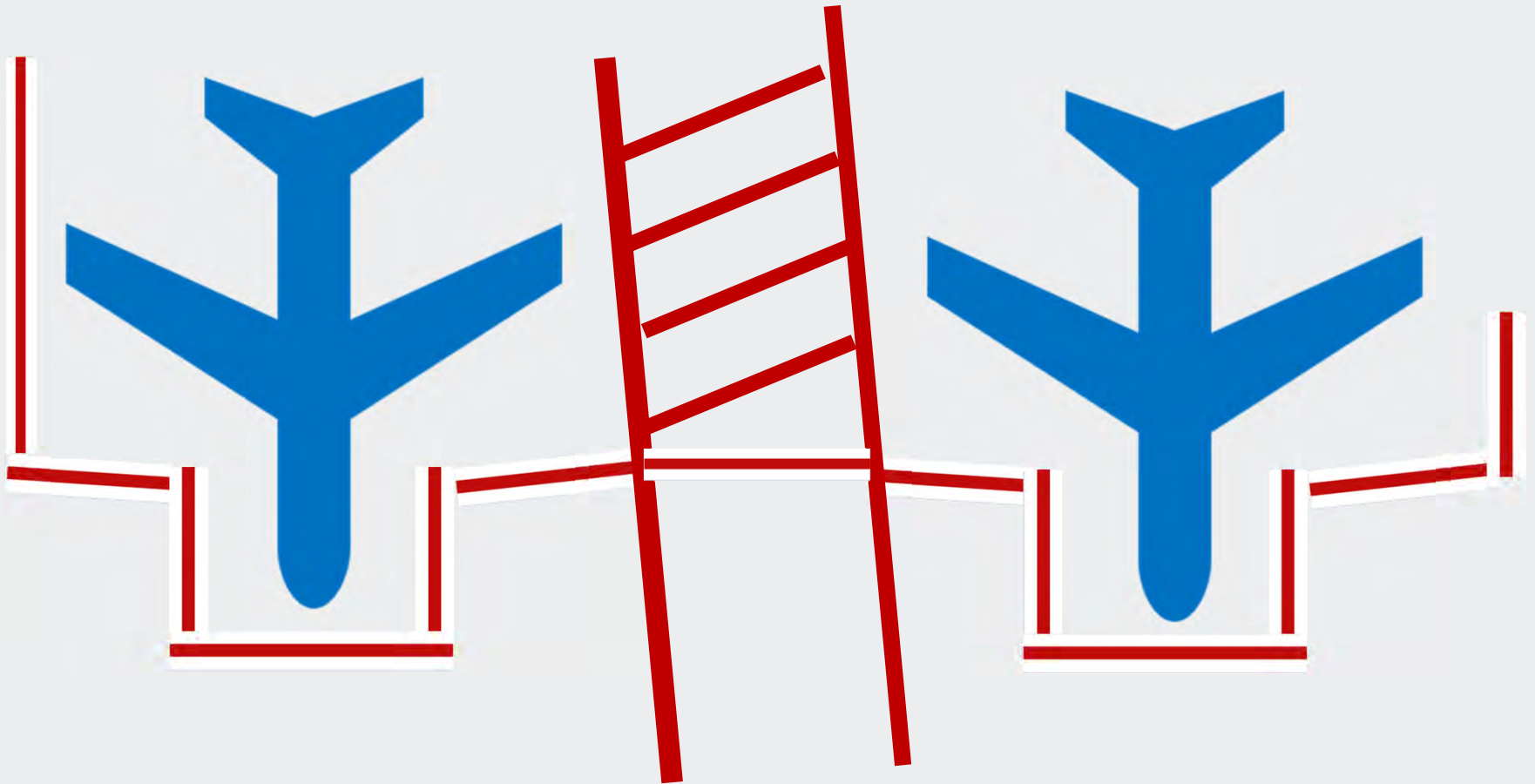
## Proposal 1



\*this is not drawn to scale. This is obviously a poorly made PowerPoint, not a CAD drawing



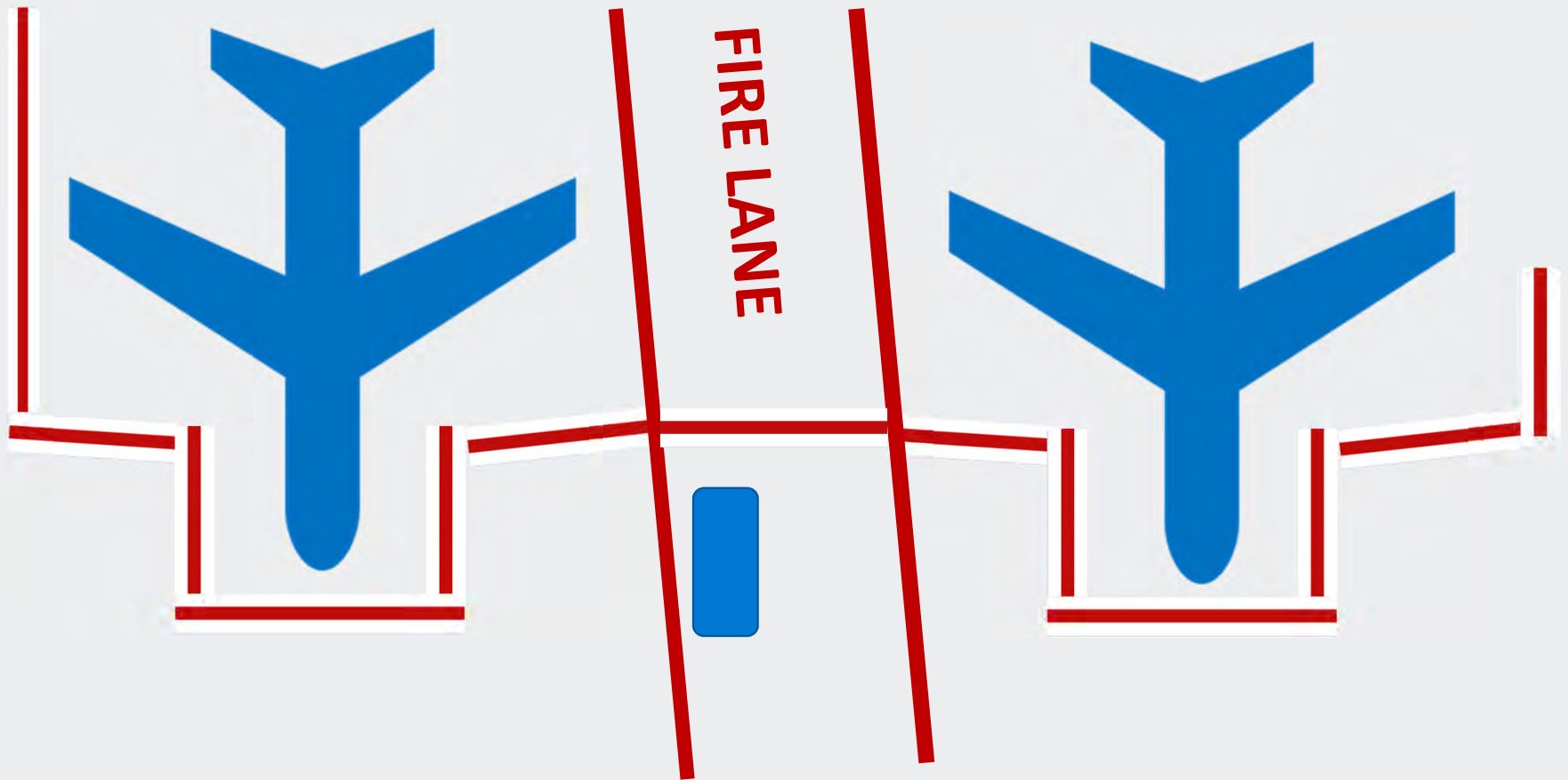
## Proposal 2



\*this is not drawn to scale. This is obviously a poorly made PowerPoint, not a CAD drawing



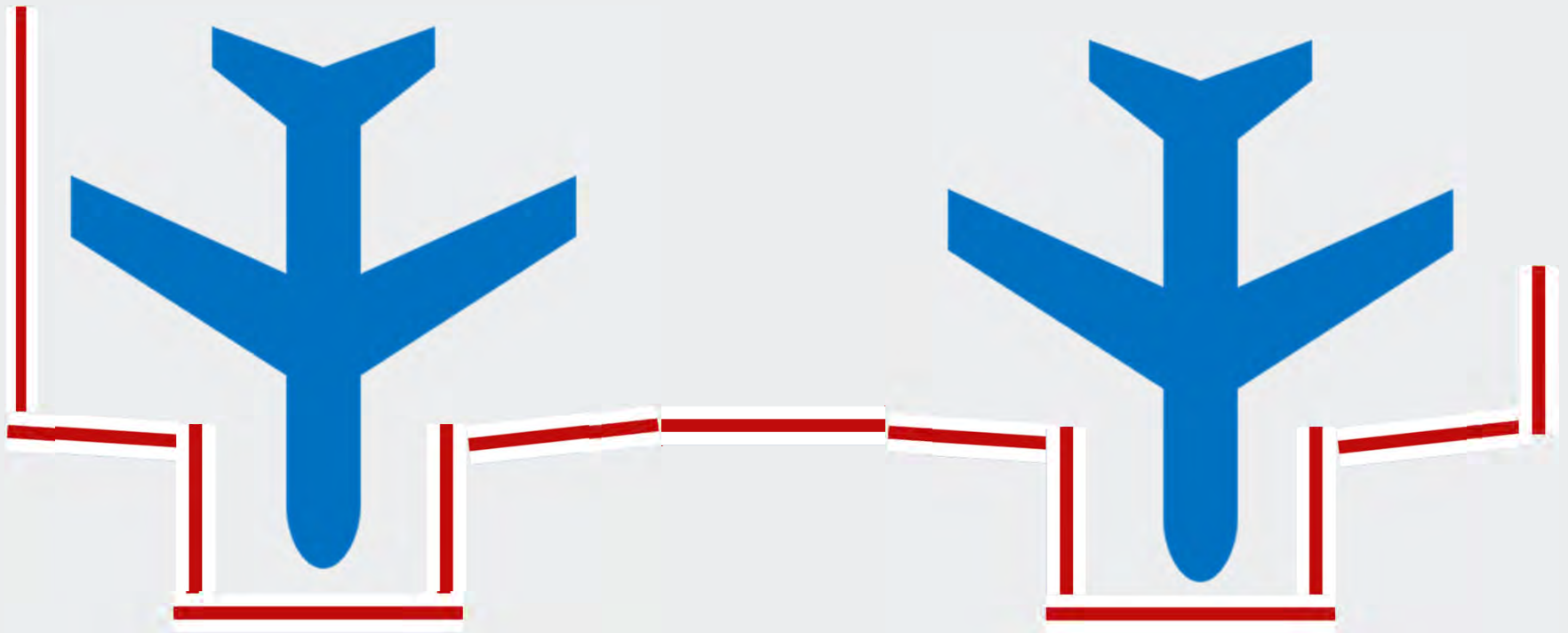
## Proposal 3



\*this is not drawn to scale. This is obviously a poorly made PowerPoint, not a CAD drawing



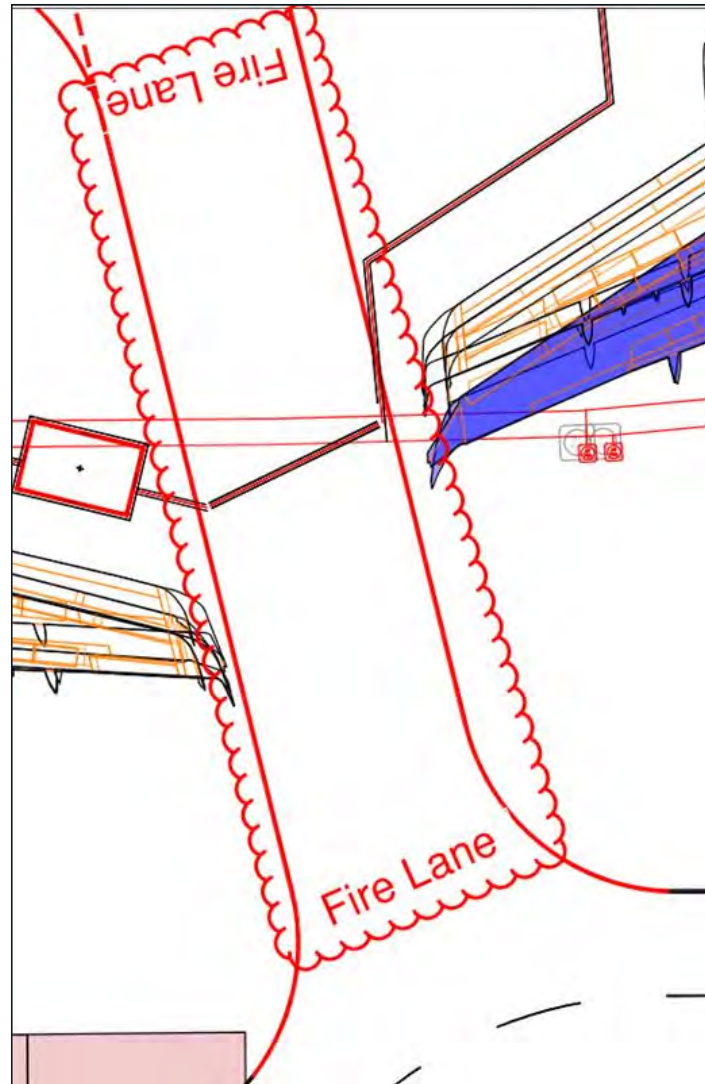
## Proposal 4



\*this is not drawn to scale. This is obviously a poorly made PowerPoint, not a CAD drawing



*Accepted/Approved by American  
Corporate Real Estate, DFW Airport  
and DFW Fire Marshalls to update  
all existing fire lanes and any  
future fire lanes*





# SMS for Airports Industry Day



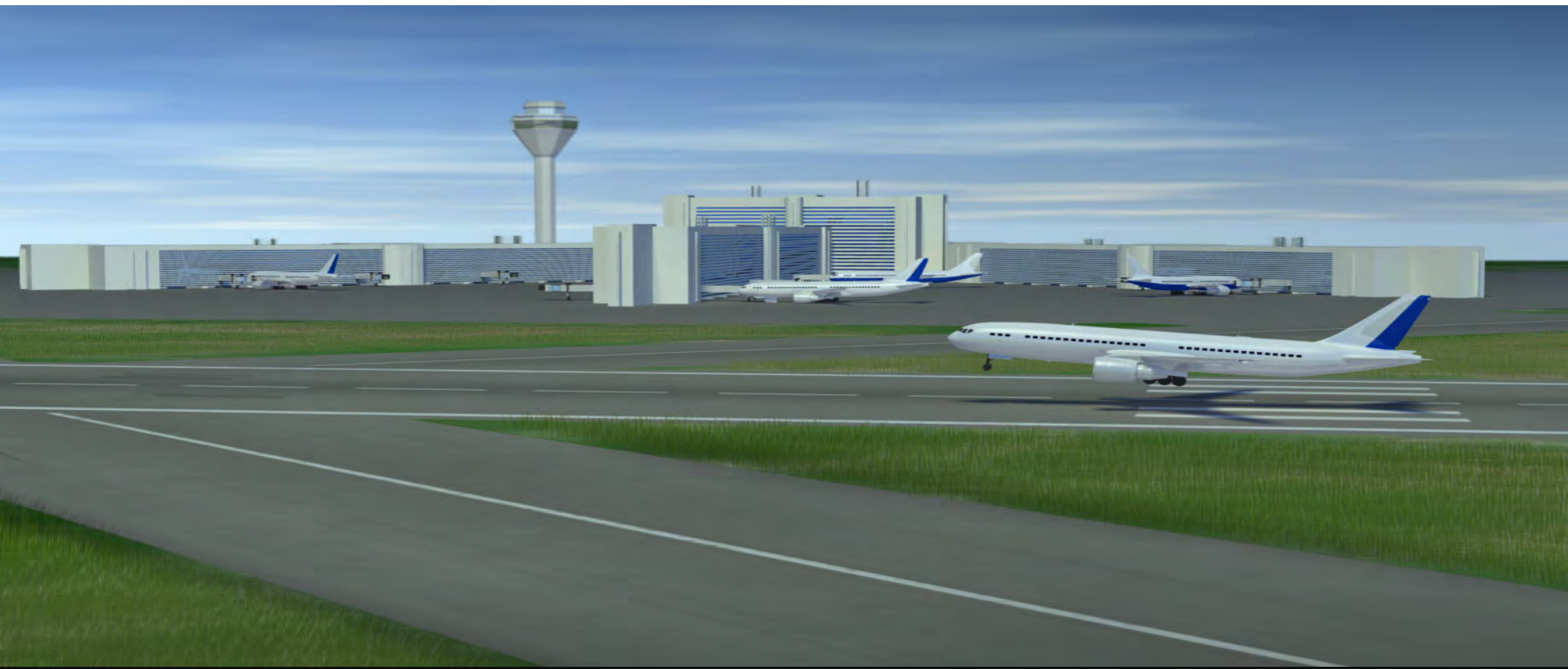
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University



"Live the Safety Culture"









# Agenda

## Airport/Airline SMS panel



How SMS has change aviation



The most important element of SMS



Discuss how SMS enhances Safety Culture







A positive change thanks to SMS

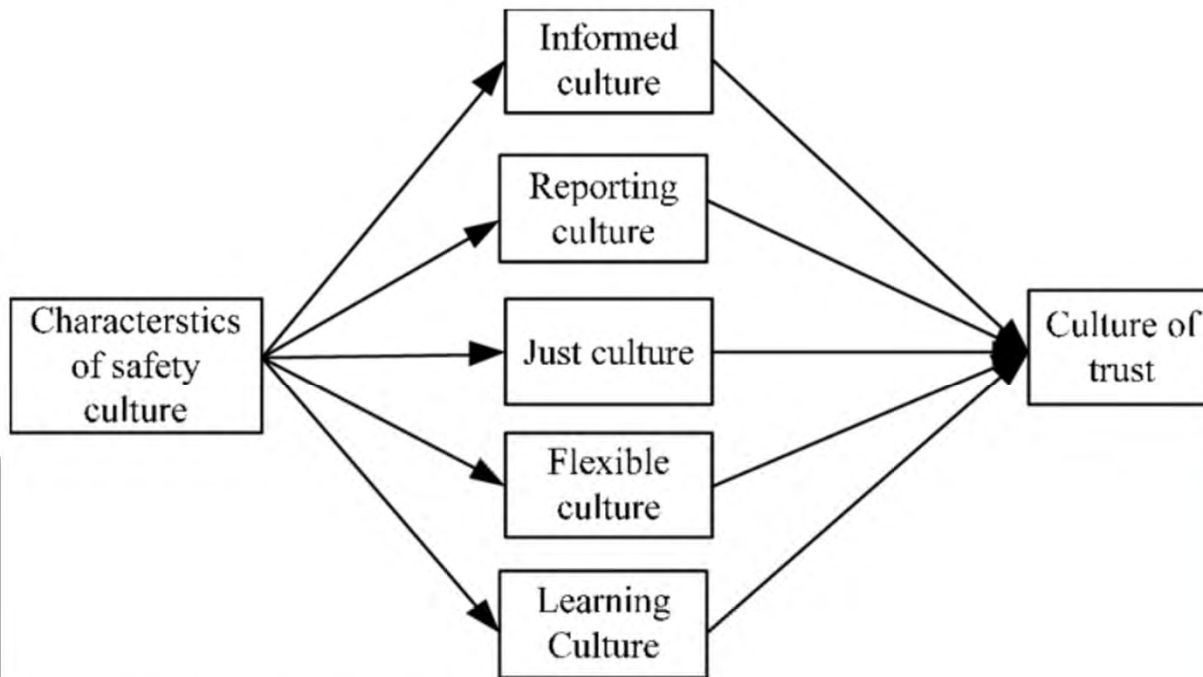




Culture is the key



## The ERAU SMS was designed around Dr. Reason's 5 components of Safety Culture



Safety culture Model Characteristics (Reason, 1997)



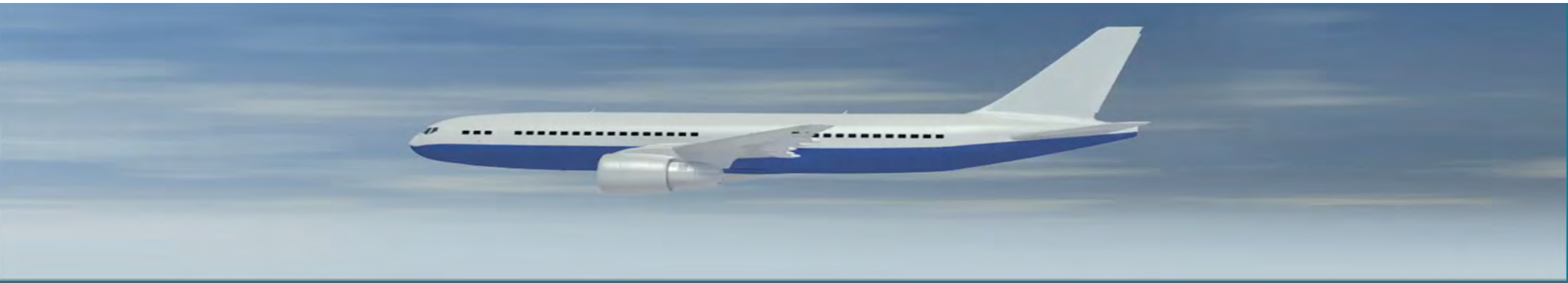




Excerpt from AC 150/5200-37A

While all SMS components contribute to a strong safety culture, Safety Promotion encourages a positive safety culture and creates an environment that is conducive to the achievement of the service provider's safety objectives.





Communicating safety information is essential to promoting a safety culture





*Safety Culture Guidance: Top management shall promote the growth of a positive safety culture through*

Shall Promote

- : 1) publication of senior management's commitment to safety to all employees; 2) demonstration of their commitment to the safety of the organization; 3) assignment of responsibilities for safety to all employees; 4) establishment of objectives, standards, and regular communication; 5) an effective employee safety feedback system that provides confidentiality as is necessary; 6) use of a safety information system that provides an accessible efficient means to retrieve information; and 7) allocation of resources essential to implement and maintain the SMS.

SHALL PROMOTE A POSITIVE  
SAFETY CULTURE?

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?







**EMBRY-RIDDLE**  
AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

## Safety Management System

"Live the Safety Culture"

Safety Policy

Safety Risk  
Management

## ERAU Safety Culture

Safety  
Assurance

Safety  
Promotion





B501



Dan McCune  
Associate Vice  
President for Safety

"Live the Safety Culture"



"Live the Safety Culture"







"Live the Safety Culture"







"Live the Safety Culture"

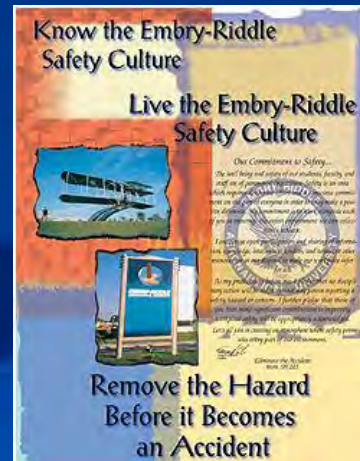




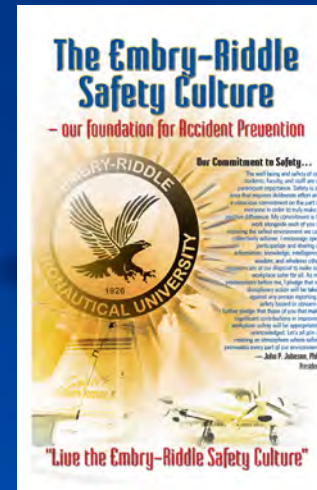
# The ERAU Safety Culture evolves to get stronger

# The Safety Culture posters show the evolution

2000 to 2006



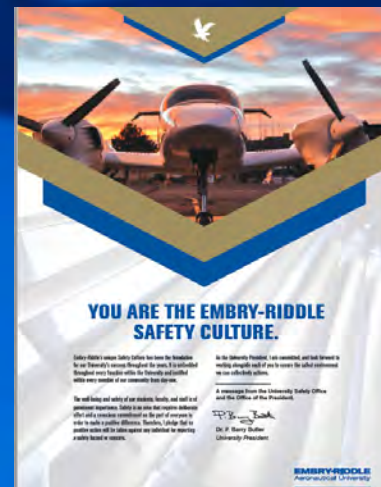
2006 to 2017



Daytona Flt 2017 to present



Prescott Flt 2017 to present



Prescott non Flt 2017 to present



Daytona non Flt 2017 to present



"Live the Safety Culture"



# The Safety Coin





## But that is just a part, here is the glue that proves that our people are our primary concern

- Dr. Butler is very creative in keeping the Safety Culture strong by instituting safety culture enhancement days to keep faculty and staff mindful of the university's value of safety. For example, on a hot August day in Florida, Dr. Johnson will hop in his golf cart and take drinks to all of the employees working outside. He will go to the maintenance hangars, pass out water and cold drinks, and even pat employees on the back in appreciation for their efforts all the while reminding them to be safe. The ERAU safety program is strong because employees know that senior leadership believes in them and cares about their wellbeing.

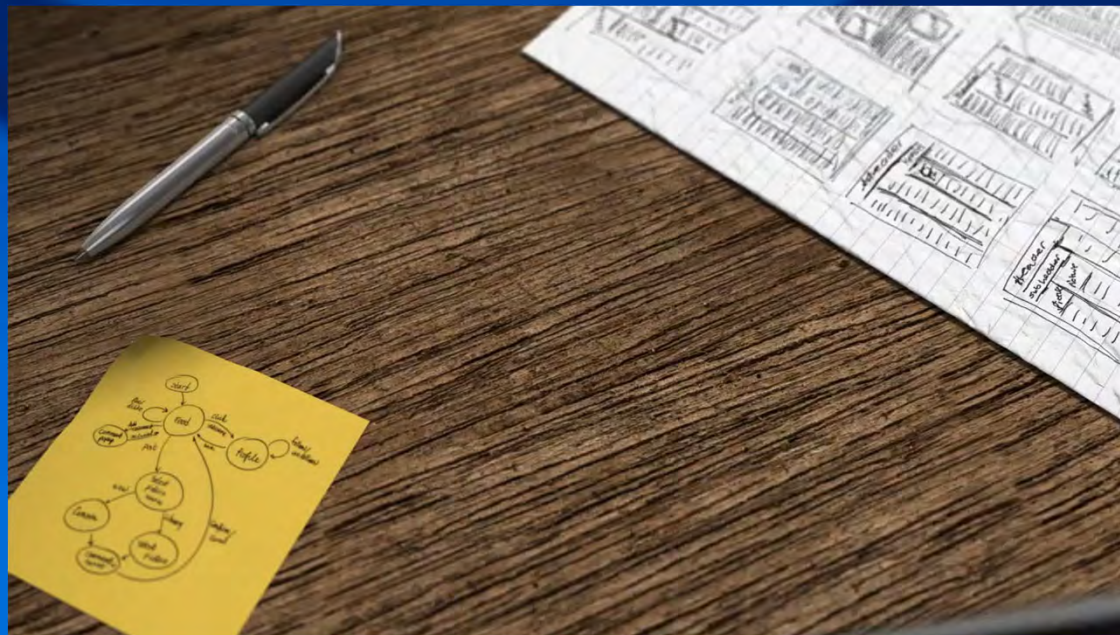


"Live the Safety Culture"





# Safety Culture is mentioned 20 times in the Advisory Circular



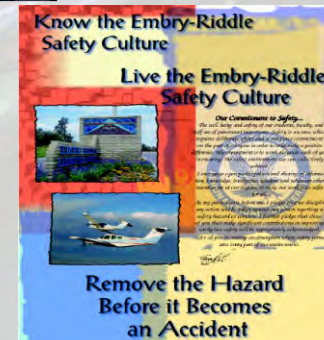




SMS is the answer



# Questions?





# Questions



Federal Aviation  
Administration