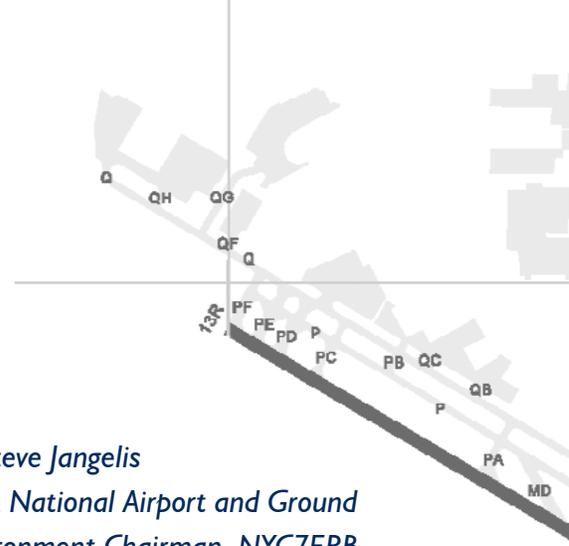


ORANGE is the new BLACK

by Steve Jangelis
ALPA National Airport and Ground
Environment Chairman, NYC7ERB



We as pilots are adapted to ambers, blacks, reds, and whites on our ground signage and lighting, but the FAA, along with ALPA's Airport and Ground Environment Group, have come up with orange to highlight the areas that are undergoing work and maintenance.

No, I am not speaking of the Netflix show, I am speaking about a new color that will debut soon across all U.S. airports. Orange—a universal symbol of construction or caution. The color will be a change to the way business is done.

We always have two seasons at airports: winter and construction. Airport infrastructure funding has not declined over the past five years; it has in fact reversed the trends of other infrastructure investments by our government and increased. In turn, we will see many more construction projects arriving at airports here in NYC as well as around the United States. One common thread we are seeing in the safety trends is that pilots, airports, and air traffic controllers are missing key NOTAMS, which has led to aircraft taxiing into, over, and through construction areas and barricades and even taking off and landing into closed areas on runways. The blame could go around all day long, but one thing is certain—it is a trend ALPA is trying to combat and reverse by

working with all stakeholders at the FAA, airports, and airlines.

We as pilots are adapted to ambers, blacks, reds, and whites on our ground signage and lighting, but the FAA, along with ALPA's Airport and Ground Environment Group, have come up with orange to highlight the areas that are undergoing work and maintenance. The signs will be temporary in nature so they can be moved from spot to spot, but will be in the same signage font and block you are used to. These signs are unlit but will be reflective and placed in areas where construction could include a taxiway closure, ramp resurfacing, and, most importantly, a runway cutback. If a runway cutback is to occur, an orange "Runway Distance Remaining" and the amount in feet will be placed at the hold line. Working in conjunction with the NOTAMS, the ATIS, the orange signage, and the "shortened" terminology from ATC, we are taking on the threat of a major accident by creating mitigations to draw the risk to zero.



