



Vanquishing the V/PD

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This publication is directed primarily towards airport management to be disseminated to all levels of personnel working at your airfield. Vanquishing the Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviation (V/PD) can be accomplished through a solid partnership between the FAA and airport management. The responsibility of making sure that the proper safeguards are in place, however, lies squarely on the shoulders of airport management. Please use this information and all that follows as a guide by which to provide a safer environment at your airfield.

Several times each year our office investigates V/PDs, at both general aviation and certificated airports, where concerned tenants, pilots or mechanics walk or drive their vehicles into the movement area to “render assistance” to disabled aircraft without first contacting the air traffic control tower (ATCT) for a clearance. In their attempts to “render assistance”, they forget that their actions negatively affect airport operations and airport safety. Consider the following:

- The pilot may not want assistance.
- Airfield Operations or the Airport Manager will solve the issue far more quickly, safely and effectively than individuals taking matters into their own hands.
- Chances are Airfield Operations and the ATCT have contacted professional organizations who are already responding.
- Unwanted participants are creating a hazard to themselves and other aircraft operating on the airfield.
- Unwanted participants are only getting in the way of professional responders.
- Unwanted participants are only causing confusion.

- Unwanted participants have little or no understanding of the nature of the emergency and may aggravate the situation.
- Unwanted participants have little or no understanding of the nature of the emergency and may be involving themselves in a situation that is rapidly becoming more dangerous.
- A pedestrian or a private vehicle has no markings, has no lights, has no radio and the tower has no idea what to expect from your actions.

Each airport has an obligation to educate tenants regarding the proper and safe response to accidents and incidents on the airfield. This education can be presented during initial movement area training provided by the airport as well as the recurrent movement area training provided every 12 consecutive calendar months thereafter. This education can also be disseminated to tenants via newsletters, bulletins or website entries.

If you witness an accident or incident in the movement area and you have a legitimate reason to be involved, call airfield operations first. They will most likely allow you to ride in their vehicle as they respond or escort your vehicle into the movement area. If airfield operations is too busy to assist you, notify the ATCT via cell phone or VHF communications radio of your desire to respond. The ATCT should issue a clearance for you to respond. Above all, resist the temptation to break all of the rules because you are convinced that the situation demands your immediate assistance. Remember that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Do not think that breaking all of the rules is necessary to accomplish a greater goal. Call the professionals first.

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