



Advisory # 2018-A-008

Runways and Taxiways -- Driver Safety Advisory

From: Aviation Services

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Operating vehicles on the airport Manoeuvring Area (runways and taxiways) requires heightened vigilance and care. Some reminders to help ensure a safe outing:

Prepare for the Drive

- It is a driver's responsibility to be fit for the task, healthy, rested, and alert. This can be a challenge during times of increased operational pressure such as winter. Give proper sleep, nutrition and exercise the priority it deserves.
- Ensure your vehicle is mechanically fit, will not deposit FOD on the airfield, that radios and lights are fully functional and windows are unobstructed.
- Plan your route as much as you are able and brief other vehicle occupants or accompanying vehicles.
- Be aware of the current runway configuration and any closures.
- Identify any other known hazards on or near your route that could affect your drive and plan how you will counter or avoid them.

- Keep the AVOP map available to confirm your route; a note pad is also useful to keep track of longer clearances.

Distraction and Task Saturation

Navigating the airfield, conducting planned duties, and watching for traffic all while maintaining communications with ATC can quickly become overwhelming if not managed.

- Maintain a "Sterile Cab" – Your communication with ATC and navigation takes priority -- all other conversation and communication must wait. If you have passengers, remind them of this as necessary.
- All VHF radio-equipped vehicles in any group must continually monitor the appropriate ATC frequency and remain aware of clearances, even under escort.
- Distribute duties amongst vehicle occupants if appropriate, especially secondary radio or company communications.
- Never cross a lit stop bar even as part of a group of vehicles. Question any direction to do so by ATC or leading vehicle.

ATC Phraseology and Clearances

- Don't be casual -- use proper phraseology, speak clearly and read back all instructions fully.
- Be aware of the potential for similarities/duplication between vehicle call sign numbers and airline flight numbers.
- If any of the instructions issued by ATC are not clear to you, question and confirm.