Runway Safety Bulletin No. 30

TO: All Towered Airports
   All FAA and FCT ATCTs

FROM: Regional Runway Safety Program Manager
      Southern Region

Airport Hotspots

A “hot spot” is a runway safety related problem area or intersection on an airport. The ICAO definition is “A location on an aerodrome movement area with a history or potential risk of collision or runway incursion, and where heightened attention by pilots and drivers is necessary.”

Potential surface incidents, particularly runway incursions (RIs), may be prevented and/or reduced by identifying airports’ hot spots and in assisting airport users to plan for the safest possible path of movement in and around the airport. Pilots’ review and familiarity of an airport’s Hot Spots add another layer of safety to their pre/post flight preparations. Proper planning helps reduce confusion and pilot errors by eliminating last-minute questions and by becoming familiar with known problem areas.

You can now find a list of Airport Diagrams depicting hot spot locations on the FAA website. Take this opportunity to review the site:
http://www.faa.gov/airports/runway_safety/hotspots/hotspots_list/

Note: There is an underscore between runway_safety and between hotspots_list

Please take notice of the word (kneeboard) to the right of the airports’ three letter identifiers. We are publishing kneeboard charts of hot spot locations to further explain and emphasize specific and troublesome areas on the airfield. Pilots can use these kneeboards in their flight planning and while in the cockpit.

We are printing 15 kneeboard charts of our top RI airports that had 5+ RIs, using FY2009 statistics, October 2008 – September 2009. All Airports are encouraged to submit hot spot photos and descriptions for publishing and downloading off of the FAA Website.

Sincerely,

Anna B. Cohen