

Airport Ground Operations--A Modular Strategy

Where Does Airport Security End, and Incident Prevention Begin

by ***Tony Jackson

Airport security is the single most common concern of airport management all over the world. At no time in the history of aviation has security and pre-emptive security measures been a number one priority to guard against potential terrorist attacks, facility/airplane breaches, or compromise to passengers and carry-on baggage security. Where does security end--and incident prevention begin?

There exist a thin line between airport security and direct pre-emptive safety protection for pilots and ground crews. Now, we are all aware that this security and protection extends to securing the airplanes before, during, and after take-offs through agents and flight crews physically located on the plane. Are they our first line of defense for security and airplane pre-emptive breach mitigations for airport ground incursions as well? Internal proactive safety strategies are equally important to reduce accidents, liabilities, and deaths/injuries that are attributed to unpredictable incidences for pilots, airport construction projects, and ground crews.

While the FAA mandates certain regulatory standards for security to minimize incidences, airports must go beyond the business as usual approach to ensure safety for all stakeholders...from facilities, airplanes, and baggage, as well as passengers, pilots, and ground crews during take-offs and landings.

Could "portable higher visibility lighting" make a significant difference by providing back-up/special marker lighting in designated areas? This simply solution would proactively secure ground operations while reducing ground liabilities and increasing safety measures through a portable higher visibility ground operations strategy.

A Novel Approach to Bridge the Gap Between Security and Incident Management

In a previous article, we reviewed the concerns of pilots becoming disoriented, unfamiliarity with airport changes and construction projects, or misunderstood communications when operating aircraft on the ground, even lighting outages present major safety liabilities for all airports throughout the world. We equally reviewed the fact that these concerns should be proactive as well as effectively managed through a "ground support assured incident management strategy."

The fact remains that incident management for runways and airport ground safety initiatives are paramount to effectively securing airport facilities, including baggage and potential terrorist attacks because individual security/safety concerns influence liability mitigation to airports and decisions of airport management. What steps can be taken proactively, to effectively manage security and incident prevention safety measures for air and ground crews?

The answer could influence the difference between life, death, or injury for airport personnel, flight crews and maintenance support crews. Airport management could reduce liabilities through pre-emptive loss prevention strategies and solutions. Bridging the "gap" between perceptions of differences in security and incident management, is one that requires a strategy that integrates comprehensive layers of security procedures and incident management solutions to strengthen proactive airport grounds operations policies.

Airport Ground Lighting is not only an FAA requirement, cutting-edge higher visibility portable lighting is critical to Airlines, Flight Crews, and Passenger survival. Integrating portable higher visibility lighting into a comprehensive Airport Ground Lighting Strategy provides a systematic approach to "proactive assured incident management solutions."

About the Author:

***Tony Jackson is an expert on "loss prevention" strategies and tactical safety solutions located in West Palm Beach, Florida USA. While the Susan story is a dramatization, for real and additional hit-and-run information and memorials to victims of this tragic occurrence, visit www.techlevel33.com . You may also contact Tony directly at triflector@gmail.com .

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