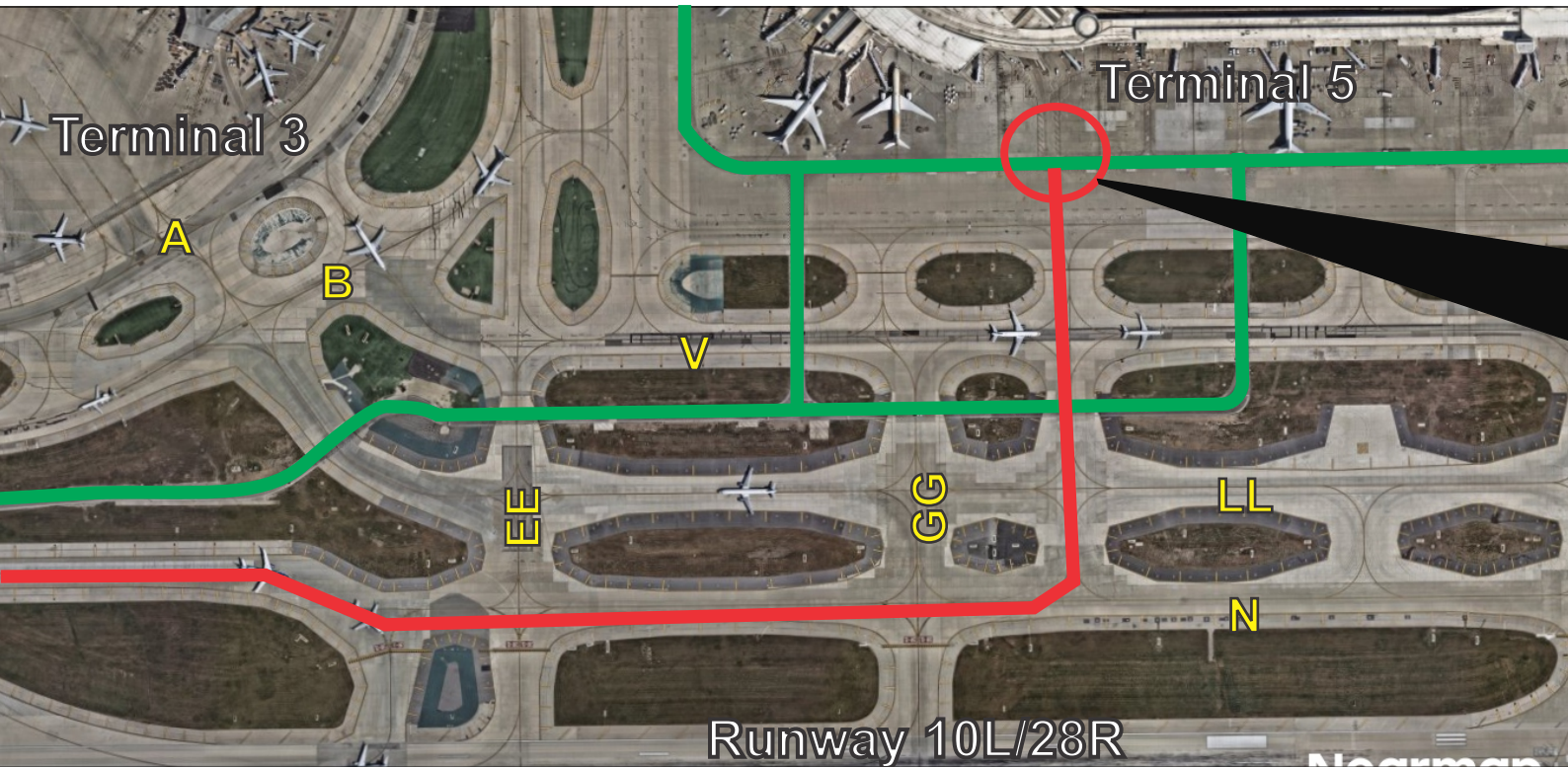


SAFETY AOA ALERT

ORD DRIVERS SAFETY ALERT - October 2026



Between July 1st - September 30th there have been 46 Surface Incidents.
Year to Date: 149 Surface Incidents - 88 of which were vehicle cut-offs.



PURPOSE OF THIS ALERT:

- Provide transparency on vehicle related safety incidents.
- Identify potential trends and operational risks.
- Share lessons learned to bring awareness to the ORD community and in effort to prevent similar incidents in the future.
- Identify steps drivers can take to prevent making similar mistakes.

WHAT LEAD TO THIS INCIDENT?

- Failure to follow proper procedures.
- Chose to continue despite a gut feeling.
- Disorientation.
- Normal operations became abnormal.
- Loss of situational awareness.
- Assuming, instead of verifying.
- Distractions during routine operations.
- Lack of airfield familiarization.

WHAT COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS?

- Better time management would have prevented being in a hurry.
- If an aircraft is blocking the service road you have one option, **WAIT**.
- Studying airfield maps to ensure the driver knew where they were.
- Once the Driver realized they were in an unfamiliar location, they should have pulled over in a **SAFE** location, and contacted CDA Ops (773-686-2255) or their company to request assistance.

DRIVERS REMEMBER:

- Most surface incidents and aircraft cutoffs happen during normal everyday movements
- If you feel lost, find a safe location to pull over and request assistance.
- Every runway incursion starts as a surface incident.
- If you see something, say something immediately. Don't assume someone already has.
- Who will pay the fine if you don't take action and continue to move?

SURFACE INCIDENT - A CASE STUDY

- ✈ Earlier this year a Basic (Yellow Stripe) Driver became disoriented and left the Vehicle Service Road along Terminal 5 shown in green and traveled the path in red; incurring a Surface Incident. All pavement pictured, taxiways and runway, were open and active at the time of the incident. The incident occurred around sunset. The driver experienced heavy traffic due to an aircraft blocking the service road and attempted a different route to avoid it. The driver is an experienced driver and had been with their company and driving at the airport since 2024.

WHAT PREVENTED A POTENTIAL RUNWAY INCURSION:

- ✈ An Advanced (Red Stripe) Driver monitoring Ground Control heard a pilot report a semi on the taxiway. That driver took action preventing a potential runway incursion.

CONSEQUENCES OF THIS MISTAKE:

- Driver's badge was confiscated.
- Driver was cited for multiple offenses.
- Company ultimately terminated employee.



For more information and other
resources visit ORDSAFE.com



For ALL emergencies, call
O'Hare /OCC (773) 894-9111

