

UPDATE: November 14, 2023

ARE YOU ABOUT TO CUT OFF AN AIRPLANE?

You have 3 choices

1. STOP, WAIT, proceed once the aircraft has cleared!
2. Proceed, cut off an aircraft, get reported and tracked by surveillance radar, get a big ticket and have your driving privileges suspended until completion of an investigation.
3. Proceed, hit an aircraft and risk your life and hundreds of others

“Can I make It Across?”, “Is that airplane too close?”

**IF YOU'RE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS, THE ANSWER IS
STOP! WAIT FOR THE AIRCRAFT(S) TO PASS IN FRONT OF YOU**

Don't take chances and don't bet your life on what you think a pilot is going to do.
As a vehicle operator our responsibility is to always give aircraft the right of way.

SLOW DOWN!

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ISSUE: WHO SAYS IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME?

Since August 2023 when the original Emergency Airfield Safety Alert was distributed, there have been an additional 35 occurrences of vehicles cutting off aircraft and since the beginning of the year there has been an alarming 60 reported incidents. **60 PEOPLE** since January 1st have thought **"IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ME!"** In 2022 there were a total of 8 incidents reported, and 2 in 2021.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

- Increased operation of both vehicles and aircraft now on the airfield
- Increased construction operations and activities across the airfield
- Increased reporting - Pilots and FAA are now reporting ANYTIME they think they are cut off by a vehicle.
- NO Standard criteria for what constitutes cutting off an aircraft
- Human Factors, implied urgency, deadlines and schedules, complacency, distractions

WHAT CAN YOU DO:

- SLOW DOWN - Why are you in such a hurry? In most instances it's only a few minute delay. Getting to your destination safely is our primary goal.
- Focus on driving and the big picture, avoid tunnel vision and be aware of your surroundings and changes to the airfield.
- The reporting is outside our control. What we can control is: STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. Always assume there is an aircraft somewhere around you. Take the extra time to identify and react to a potential hazard.
- When in doubt STOP and WAIT! - You NEVER have the right-of-way over aircraft and as a driver you will ALWAYS lose the battle.
- Who is telling us to "Go Fast?" the majority of the time its self implied, put the phone down...

Human Factors and The "Haste Phenomenon"

Think about how irritated we get when things are "SLOW". We want everything to be "FAST". The unfortunate truth of our work at O'Hare and in the aviation industry, "TIME IS MONEY". We need to balance the need for efficiency and speed with the importance and consideration of SAFETY! While speed may drive efficiency and productivity, it can also lead to NEGATIVE consequences and higher likelihood of airfield incidents.

