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AC NO: 90-44

DATE: 4/25/69



ADVISORY CIRCULAR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: AIRPORT GROUND OPERATIONS DURING LOW VISIBILITY CONDITIONS

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1. PURPOSE. This circular alerts the aviation community to potential problem areas which may exist on airport movement areas during periods of extremely low visibility.
 2. BACKGROUND.
 - a. Some airports occasionally experience extended periods of low visibility conditions. In such circumstances it is possible for pilots to become disoriented during ground operations. Arriving aircraft may have difficulty taxiing to the terminal after landing and departing aircraft may be unable to locate the correct taxiway or runway after leaving the terminal ramp. There have been instances where aircraft have inadvertently crossed active runways after having been instructed to hold short.
 - b. The number of airports approved or scheduled for Category II or Category III operations highlights the need for pilots to be aware of these potential problem areas.
 3. DISCUSSION. Pilots and aircraft operators should be constantly aware that during certain low visibility conditions the movement of aircraft and vehicles on airports may not be visible to the tower controller. This may prevent visual confirmation of an aircraft's adherence to taxi instructions. Pilots should, therefore, exercise extreme vigilance and proceed cautiously under such conditions. Of vital importance is the need for pilots to notify the controller when such difficulties are anticipated and to immediately inform the controller at the first indication of becoming disoriented.
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4. MISCELLANEOUS. The Federal Aviation Administration is continuing its pursuit of ways and means of reducing the potential hazards of airport ground operations during low visibility conditions. Among those being considered are bright display airport surface detection radar, closed circuit television, taxiway centerline lighting systems, airport taxi charts, and improved signs and markings.

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