

Richard Loewen: Top Tips for Controllers

Hi, I'm Rick Loewen, NATCA National Runway Safety and a controller at DFW Tower. Welcome to the Runway Safety/Runway Excursion App. Together with data from ATISAP, the Office of Runway Safety and the Partnership for Safety, we are going to present a new way to look at our role to prevent runway excursions. For many, a runway excursion is when an aircraft runs out of runway after landing too fast or too far down the runway. And while that is a runway excursion, so is it when an aircraft veers or slides off the side of a runway after encountering severe or unexpected crosswinds or a contaminate on the runway. Runway excursions can happen on both the arrival and departure phases of flight. And we as air traffic controllers are in a leadership position to reduce the risk of runway excursions, by following the tips provided in this app, and by always putting safety first. Historically, runway excursions outnumber runway incursions by as many as 40 times when counting incidents that end in an aircraft accident. In 2013 alone, preliminary numbers show 34 runway excursion accidents in the United States. It can happen to you. Please check back often, the refresh your memory and find new information. This app will be periodically updated with new information and content. Regular review of the app at team briefings will also help your team, whether in the tower, TRACON or enroute center to remain focused on improving runway safety