

Stephen Lloyd: Runway Excursion Shared Responsibility

As air traffic control professionals, safety is our highest priority. We must do all we can to keep every flight safe. In the FAA, we have no greater responsibility.

Runway excursions are a major cause of aviation accidents. In fact, last year, based on our preliminary data, there were 34 reported runway excursion accidents at U.S. controlled airports.

In my personal experience, there is a false perception that runway excursions are solely a pilot problem. This is simply not true. We know there are many factors that result in a runway excursion and we all play a hand in mitigating these events.

From the manufacturers and their system designs, to the dispatchers that help calculate landing and takeoff performance data, to the pilots for obvious reasons, and to the airport authority for maintaining the runways, and of course, air traffic controllers who help pilot's fly a stabilized approach and communicate real-time safety information to the flight crew. Managers also play an important part by promoting a positive safety culture, safety training, and ensuring the safest runway selections.

Mitigating runway excursions requires all of us, we need to work together to keep the NAS safe. Be a safety advocate and lead us to a safer NAS. Safety is everyone, everywhere, every day.