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MERRILL FIELD BULLETIN

Current News About Your Airport

Merrill Field Airport
800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage AK 99501

September, 2016
www.muni.org/merrill

New Vehicle Gate Access Protocol

In order to curtail unauthorized entry of pedestrians and vehicles into the air operations area/movement area, our Security Improvements Phase 3 contractor Alcan Electrical has been working on upgrading all Merrill Field vehicle gates to ensure that the gates operate properly in conjunction with the newly installed fiber-optic cable and the upgraded gate access components.

All gates will now have a new keypad and upgraded proximity card reader on the **inside and outside** of the gate. This will allow authorized access to the lot by "smart card" or by entering the designated gate key pad code; likewise, a **"smart card" or key pad code is now required to exit the lot**. The same code will work on the inside and outside key pad. Thus the removal of all motion sensors and red emergency buttons that activate the gates to open when exiting your lot/movement area was needed to eliminate unauthorized access/entry.

This means that **airport users will only be allowed to exit through the gate that they entered or through a gate that is authorized on their "smart card" or by key pad code**. Users should not try to access other vehicle gates as they will not open without the appropriate authorization.

You do not need to obtain a new "smart card". If you already have a "smart card" it will work for the gates you currently have authorization to use. If you do not have a "smart card" but wish to purchase one please call the Airport Manager's Office.

Our goal is to reduce the number of runway and taxiway incursions by discouraging vehicle movement from one lot to another. We are aware this is a new procedure, and appreciate your patience and understanding. Leaseholder assistance in providing this information and, if necessary, your keypad code to your tenants, customers and visitors, as necessary, is also greatly appreciated.

Again, the goal of this vehicle gates upgrade is not to inconvenience airport users but to curtail unauthorized entry into the movement area causing a vehicle/pedestrian deviation.

Please contact the Merrill Field Airport Manager's Office if you have any questions 907-343-6303. The office is open from 7:30am-4:30pm, Monday thru Friday.



What's Happening at Merrill Field

Summer just flew by and the fall season is ahead of us. It won't be long before we see the snow panorama and then low and behold it will be winter all over again. With this, the Airport would like to share the on-going tasks that require your attention:

→ **Rehabilitate Taxiway Quebec, Phase 5 Construction** – Our contractor MassEx has been progressing with dynamic compaction along Taxiway Quebec and the Golf apron. The dynamic compaction and new paved asphalt at Taxiway Quebec has been completed and the taxiway is back to full operation. The dynamic compaction process is on-going despite the rainy weather set back. It is a constant battle to ensure that we have good compaction and at the same time have a safe working environment. With the wet weather we are having, there is a possibility that the work area will not be completed this year, but we are working closely with MassEx to complete at least three tie-down rows on the west end of the project area. The remaining work area will be graded (hopefully!) before the onset of winter and will be paved spring/summer of 2017. This year's project is the largest in terms of area compared to previous dynamic compaction projects.

→ **Install RWY 5/23 Lights and Signage** – Swanson General was awarded the contract for this project that will enhance RWY 5/23 safety particularly during the winter months when daylight hours are limited. Installation of runway lights and signage will improve runway visibility and illumination will help pilots to discern the runway from the adjacent taxiway. Due to the late award, most of the work will be deferred to spring/summer of 2017.

→ **The Airport Master Plan Update, Phase-2** – Please visit MRI Master Plan website at <http://www.merrillfieldmasterplan.com/> for current information.

Revisiting the Merrill Field Airport Driver Training Program

The Merrill Field Airport Driver Training Program (DTP) has been in effect for over a decade (since 2005). This program was implemented through joint efforts with the FAA Airports Alaska Region and the FAA Runway Safety Office. The objective of this program is to familiarize drivers with airport operations by understanding MRI's layout, signs and markings, air traffic control tower radio communication, and appropriate driving practices.

Though the majority of MRI users and pilots are aware of this program, we are still racking up numbers of Vehicle/Pedestrian Deviations (VPDs) and we need your help to eliminate these MRI statistics. Anchorage Police Department enforcement and Air Traffic Control Tower assistance has been instrumental in keeping VPD incidents in check, but your continued vigilance and watchfulness to deter possible deviations is greatly appreciated.

When you see someone who seems unfamiliar with the airport or lost in transition – stop and ask questions, and offer your help or directions. The sooner you can assist lost individuals lessens the chance that he/she will become another VPD statistic. Your assistance in guiding people to their intended destinations and away from the movement area contributes to Merrill Field's safety and security and is greatly appreciated by Airport Management.

By using this program to educate our users, we can minimize, or better yet, eliminate the vehicle/pedestrian deviations at Merrill Field Airport. Remember, the daily, monthly and annual goal is always zero VPDs! We still have a ways to go but together we can achieve it.

This program is accessible by clicking on the Driver Training Program link on Merrill Field web site www.muni.org/merrill.

Seasonal Snippets

Identify your covers: Just as certain as the fall and winter winds will be howling, a pilot will be asking if anyone has found a wind-blown wing or cowling cover. Please mark all covers with your aircraft N number. We'll gladly inform the rightful owner that a missing cover has been found if we know who owns the associated aircraft.

Seasonal Waterfowl Activity: The fall waterfowl migratory season is here, and we are continually hazing geese to discourage them from roosting on the field.

Wash rack reminder: If you have been putting off cleaning your aircraft, you may not want to wait much longer. When the temperature dips below freezing, the wash system will be shut down for the season.

Winter Preparation: The Airport maintenance staff is busy gearing up for the first snowfall of the season. Each aircraft owner can help by removing all items and/or debris from your tie-down area that could potentially be pushed away with a pile of snow. Not only can items of value be lost or damaged--these items can also cause **substantial** damage to snow removal equipment. All unsecured items (**blocks, boards, shovels, ladders, gas and oil cans, etc.**) found in your tiedown are subject to being removed by Airport Maintenance. Your cooperation and attention to this important request is greatly appreciated.



Two Airport Commission terms expire October 14

In October, the terms of two Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission seats will expire. If you are an owner of residential real property located within one mile of the boundaries of any municipal airport or a member of the Alaska Airmen Association and are interested in filling one of these two seats, send a brief letter and résumé with your application to the Mayor's office.

For application details, you can contact the Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff, Ona Brause at 343-7103 or by email to BrauseO@muni.org. An application form and additional information is available online at the Municipal Boards and Commissions website at www.muni.org. Applications are kept on hand for openings that may become available throughout the year. The Mayor appointed, three-year terms are subject to approval by the Anchorage Assembly.

MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS AVIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission meetings are open to the public and are generally held the first Thursday of every other month. Please call 343-6303 for additional information.

2016/2017 Meeting Dates:
Nov 3, Jan 5, Mar 2, May 4

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Term Exp.</u>
Jim Cieplak	10/14/16
Don DeVoe	10/14/16
Greg Pearce	10/14/17
Jim Powell, Chair	10/14/17
Sharon Chamard, V Chair	10/14/18
Jamie Patterson-Simes	10/14/18
Terry Pena	10/14/18

Statistics

Operations:

Sep, 2015 – Aug, 2016: 123,117
2016 Based Aircraft: 826

AVIATION EVENTS

Saturday, September 24: Girls In Aviation Day

Join the Women in Aviation International, Last Frontier Chapter for a fun day packed with aviation themed activities. If you're interested in aviation as a career, a hobby, or just love airplanes, this is the place for you. PenAir Hangar 2, Ted Steven Anchorage International Airport, 6100 Boeing Ave. 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Facebook: Women in Aviation Alaska Last Frontier Chapter, or call (907) 350-6607.

Wednesday, October 5: Merrill Field Users Group Meeting

The quarterly Merrill Field User Group Meeting with the Airport Manager will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 3:00PM at the Airport Manager's Office, 800 Merrill Field Drive, Anchorage, AK 99501. Call 343-6303 for more details.

Wednesday, October 12: Ninety Nines - Alaska Chapter Monthly Meeting

The 99s meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Wings of Freedom hangar, 2400 E. 5th Avenue, 6:00 – 8:30PM For more details, please call Kathy Trantum, Chapter Chair, at (907) 529-8585 or visit the 99s website, <http://www.ak99s.org/index.html>.

Friday, October 21: Alaskan Aviation Legends & Awards Banquet

The Alaska Air Carriers Association hosts this memorable banquet at the Marriott Hotel, 820 W. 7th Avenue, Anchorage. Reception starts at 5:00PM followed by dinner at 6:00PM. For tickets call 277-0071, or for more details, visit <http://alaskaaircarriers.org/servlet/content/events.html>.

Thursday, November 3: Municipal Airports Aviation Advisory Commission Meeting

Bi-monthly meetings are held at the Anchorage Fire Training Center, 1140 Airport Heights, Bldg. A, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. For more information, call the Airport Manager's Office, 343-6303.

Saturday, November 5: Fall Safety Seminar

The Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation (AASF) Fall Seminar will be held at the UAA Aviation Technology Center on November 5, 2016. The National Transportation Safety Board is cohosting this event and will focus on the loss of control accidents and the accident investigation process. Registration will begin at 8:00AM.

Monitoring Airport Access Gates (Vehicle & Pedestrian)

It is important to monitor the gate you use when entering or exiting the air operations area. When you go through the gate, please wait for the gate to close behind you before proceeding. This will help ensure someone unfamiliar with the airport does not "tailgate" and inadvertently cross a taxiway or runway causing a Vehicle Pedestrian Deviation (VPD). This '**wait at the gate**' practice will stop unauthorized drivers from tailgating and prevent the driver or pedestrian from accessing the movement area. Waiting less than 20 seconds is a very small but effective accident prevention tool, and this little extra attention could be the few seconds it takes to prevent a tragedy. Each time you use a vehicle gate, please wait in the area until the gate is fully closed—'wait at the gate'.



We have created a Merrill Field Facebook page. Here you can find information about road closures, activity on Merrill Field, updates regarding security, and information about lease lots. Please come check us out at "Merrill Field Airport".

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