

Safety Alert

20th May 2020

ASGrOps_SA_025

V1.0

Maintaining safe operations during periods of reduced activity airside

Introduction

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to raise awareness of safety trends that have been observed during this period of reduced aircraft movements and associated activities airside.

Incident Summary

COVID-19 has had an unprecedented impact on the aviation sector, and Heathrow is operating at approximately 15% of traffic levels seen prior to the outbreak. A series of safety occurrences in recent weeks indicate a drop-in attention levels, and that a degree of complacency may have arisen. Additionally, airside users returning from furlough or operating in different parts of the airfield to normal may be unfamiliar with their surroundings.

Recent safety occurrences have included:

- 5 Runway Safety Events, in which published procedures were not followed.
- Aircraft stands being used to store equipment without a formal stand closure.
- An increase in Airside Occurrence Tickets being issued for parking offences.
- An increase in speeding in the Cargo Tunnel.

It is incumbent upon all airside users to maintain the highest standards of safety, and for managers/supervisors to monitor behaviours and adherence to procedures as they would at all other times. Airside users should pay attention to aircraft and vehicular movements that may be less predictable than previously (i.e. airlines operating from different terminals). Ground staff may be less familiar with their environment due to airline moves.

Enquires

Any questions regarding this Safety Alert should be addressed to the Aerodrome Safety and Assurance Team at airside_safety@heathrow.com. Additional information such as Operational Safety Instructions (OSIs) and Operational Advice Notices (OANs) can be found at heathrow.com/airside/useful-publications

Reference: ASGrOps_SA_025

Author: Joe Audcent/Neil Siberry

Job title: Aerodrome Safety Investigation Manager

Location: Airfield Operations Facility (B16887)

Effective date: 26th May 2020

Approved by: Paul Morgan

Job title: Aerodrome SMS Manager

