**Runway Incursion Avoidance at Uncontrolled Airports**

**By: Sanford Fogg 08 July 2023**

Runway incursions are a serious safety hazard in aviation. They occur when an aircraft, vehicle, or person enters the protected area of a runway where another aircraft is landing or taking off. Both the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) defines a runway incursion as "any occurrence at an aerodrome involving the incorrect presence of an aircraft, vehicle or person on the protected area of a surface designated for the landing and take off of aircraft."

Runway incursions are more likely to occur at uncontrolled airports, where there is no air traffic control (ATC) to provide separation between aircraft. At these airports, pilots are responsible for "seeing and avoiding" other aircraft. This can be a challenge, especially in busy airspace or at night.

There are a number of things that pilots can do to help avoid runway incursions at uncontrolled airports. These include:

- **Always be aware of your surroundings.** This means scanning the entire runway area for other aircraft, vehicles, and people before you take off or land.
- **Use all available visual cues.** This includes looking for aircraft lights, taxiway markings, and runway signs.
- **Be especially careful when taxiing.** This is when runway incursions are most likely to occur.
- **Never assume that a runway is clear.** Always visually confirm that it is clear before crossing or entering it.
- **Follow standard operating procedures (SOPs).** These procedures will help you to stay safe and avoid runway incursions.

**Here are some additional tips for runway incursion avoidance at uncontrolled airports:**

- **Use a sterile cockpit when taxiing.** This means that no non-essential conversations should take place in the cockpit. This will help you to stay focused on the task of taxiing safely.
- **Turn on all of your aircraft lights when taxiing.** This will make your aircraft more visible to other pilots and ground personnel.
- **Be aware of the location of other aircraft on the ground.** This can be done by scanning the entire runway area for other aircraft lights.
- **Use the hold short lines when instructed to do so.** These lines are located at the end of runways and taxiways to help prevent runway incursions.
- **If you see a potential runway incursion, take action immediately.** This could include calling the airport tower, waiving your wings, or sounding your horn.

Both the Saudi Aviation Club (SAC) and the National Aviation Academy (TAYARAN) take runway incursion avoidance very seriously. SAC and TAYARAN work together to ensure that Thumamah Aerodrome (OETH) is a safe environment for general aviation in the Kingdom.  To that end we ask that all pilots operating at OETH report any safety issues that you observe, if you see something, say something. Remember "Safety has NO Rank, because Silence is Deadly".

Working together, we can make Thumamah Aerodrome (OETH) an example of what we can achieve through cooperation.