



Dear Connecticut General Aviation Pilot:


As a fellow pilot and as a dedicated citizen, you understand the importance of protecting our nation's general aviation airports and facilities from potential threats. It is up to all of us to monitor our surroundings and look for ways we can prevent negative events from happening. We each need to do our part to diminish the concerns that every small airplane and small airport could be a terrorist threat.


Who better to call on than the local airport community to help secure general aviation airports? We all encounter situations such as the gate that is always left unlocked, the push-button lock that has the code posted for all to see, the hole in the fence that we use to avoid a longer walk. Call these matters to the attention of your airport manager, and ensure the manager takes remedial action. As a renter or flying club member, ask yourself, are the keys in a place where they could be easily stolen? If so, call that to the owner's attention. Keep these scenarios in your mind and seek ways to make the airport more secure. That's why the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security have partnered with the Aircraft Owners and Pilot's Association (AOPA) to endorse some very simple security procedures to keep our state's airports safe:

- 1) Please securely lock your aircraft when it is unattended and help pass the words to others to do the same.
- 2) Please help us make the AOPA's Airport Watch Program successful. This program was modeled after the highly successful Neighborhood Watch Program used in communities across the country. Most GA pilots find their home airport as familiar as their own neighborhood, so who else is better qualified to know when suspicious strangers appear? AOPA's Airport Watch relies on civic minded pilots like you to be alert to any suspicious activity at local airports, and report any irregularities.

If you see any suspicious activity around your airport, the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has established a toll free reporting number (1-866-GA-SECURE) answered by live specialists at the TSA. If you believe the situation requires urgent attention, immediately dial 911 or contact a management official at the airport. AOPA is furnishing airport managers with training tapes illustrating behavior that constitutes suspicious activity, as well as warning signs and posters. We are requesting airport managers to invite their based pilots to view this video in conjunction with discussing other community and government based efforts for protecting airports.

AOPA and the State of Connecticut need your vigilance and assistance to keep our state's airports safe. During these extraordinary times, it's important that general aviation pilots like you take the initiative to show that pilots can, and will, foster security at our GA airports.


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