

Non-meteorological hazards

1. Check that you know the words and expressions.

RW incursion	bird ingestion
unauthorized entry	sun glare
obstacle/obstruction	obscure
aborted/abandoned/rejected/cancelled	flock of birds
take-off	measures to scare away birds
foreign object	present threat to flight safety
burst/blown/lost tyre	grounds/territory are/is fenced
debris/loose parts of aircraft	animals/wildlife

Taking-off and landing are the most dangerous stages of flight.

Aircraft can encounter different hazards during take-off and landing. For example large flocks of birds; man-made obstacles near the airport such as high buildings, TV towers, masts; natural obstacles such as mountains or high hills; obstructions on the runway like lost tyre, loose parts of aircraft, debris. Even sun-glare can present threat to the flight safety, it can obscure other traffic or obstacles from pilots' view.

Flocks of birds can be hazardous for aircraft. A bird strike or bird ingestion can cause engine failure, hydraulic problems, aircraft control problems, cracked windshield. They are emergency situations for pilots. A bird strike can lead to return to the departure aerodrome and a forced landing. That's why there are special measures to scare away birds in the vicinity of aerodromes.

Any foreign objects on the RW can present danger for aircraft. A burst tyre or loose parts of aircraft can cause a rejected take-off or an incident. (That was a reason for Concorde crash.) So ground staff inspects the RWs for possible debris and cleans the RWs regularly.

RW incursion is another hazard on the ground. It is the unauthorized entry onto the RW by an aircraft, a vehicle, or a person. Operational error on the part of a controller, a pilot or a vehicle driver deviating from issued instructions, or miscommunication can cause a RW incursion. (Miscommunication was one of the causes of the world's worst civil aviation disaster at Tenerife in 1977 when two Boeing 747s collided on a RW killing 538 people).

Problems with the lighting or markings of RWs and TWs, or just a general disorientation or failure to see a situation correctly are other potential hazards.

Grounds of airports are usually fenced to keep animals or wildlife away from the RWs, because they can be hazardous for moving aircraft too.

2. Complete the table as in the example.

Verb	Participle II + noun
reject	rejected take-off
blow	
crack	
ingest	
obscure	