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All fencing must be properly installed and maintained. A 4-foot skirt of chain-link fence material, attached to the bottom of the fence and buried at a 45° angle on the outside of the fence will prevent animals from digging under the fence and

reduce the chance of washouts. This type of fencing also greatly increases airport security and safety. The fence line right-of-way must be kept free of excess vegetation. The fence line should be patrolled at least daily, and any washouts, breaks or other holes in the fence repaired as soon as they are discovered.

Gates should close with less than 6-inch gaps to prevent entry by deer.

When installation of chain link fencing is not feasible due to cost or environmental impacts, other types of fencing may be installed. (Cost alone is not an acceptable reason for rejecting the use of chain link fencing.) In some cases, electric fencing may offer a suitable alternative. Recent improvements in fencing components and design have greatly increased the effectiveness and ease of installation of electric fences. Tests by the USDA, National Wildlife Research Center have shown that some 4 to 6-foot, 5 to 9-strand electric fences designs can be 99% effective at stopping deer. Installation of some of the newer electric fences requires neither specialized equipment nor training and can be accomplished by airport personnel.

In limited situations, the use of non-conductive, composite, frangible electric fence posts and fence conductors may allow the installation of electric fence closer to the aircraft movement area than would normally be allowed with standard chain link fencing material.

If deer are observed on or near the aircraft movement area, immediate action must be taken to remove them.

Airport operators can contact the nearest USDA, Wildlife Services Office or the State Wildlife Management Agency for assistance with deer problems.



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Ben Castellano, Manager
Airport Safety & Operations Division

Date

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