

TOWING SAFETY

The value of having wing walkers can be priceless. Failing to use wing walkers when towing aircraft around an airshow hot/display ramp or into and out of the hangar, people can become distracted by obstacles on one side of the aircraft while not noticing obstacles on the other side, crossed active taxiways and runways without clearance from Airboss or ATC, and failed to adequately alert tug drivers of impending collision.

- Always use wing walkers when towing the aircraft in congested areas. Congested areas include proximity to hangars, static displays or other buildings, near other aircraft or where wing tip clearance is less than ½ the total wing span of the aircraft.
- If you are marshalling the aircraft or acting as the wing walker, stay focused and aware. Strong and timely communication with the tug driver is key to ensure they have plenty of time to stop before striking an object. (If towing in a loud environment stop and pre-brief your tow mission so that all parties understand all communication protocol whether its hand signals or radio calls)
- Be aware of equipment parked nearby when towing
- Reference the airport diagram when taxiing the aircraft to become familiar with the taxi routes and airport layout
- (this helps especially if radio communications is required to move aircraft).
- Always question Airboss or tower instructions when unsure of their provided clearances.
- Avoid unnecessary distractions while taxiing and running aircraft engines such as cell phone usage and discussions not pertinent to the task at hand.
- Always use the proper equipment and appropriate weight tow vehicle.

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