

CAAS HIGHLIGHTS HAZARDS OF SHINING LASER LIGHTS AT AIRCRAFT



CAAS is engaging the community to increase public awareness on the safety hazards of shining laser lights at aircraft.

Shining a laser light at an aircraft presents a hazard to the safety of the flight, putting lives at risk. A laser light shone into an aircraft cockpit could cause discomfort, distract or even confuse the pilots. In more severe cases, the pilots may experience temporary flash blindness or even injure their eyes, which could lead to them being incapacitated and thus not being able to carry out their duties. This could endanger the flight, especially during its critical phases i.e. take-off and landing, those onboard and people on the ground.

Ensuring safe aircraft operations is a priority for CAAS. To tackle this issue, CAAS has launched a public awareness campaign to inform members of the public on such hazardous activities. CAAS has also ramped up surveillance and enforcement efforts, engaging a commercial enforcement agency to patrol East Coast Park areas and residential estates along

the coast. These patrol officers will take the necessary enforcement action against anyone caught directing laser lights at aircraft.

Pointing a laser light or any other form of glaring light at an aircraft in flight is an offence under the Singapore Air Navigation Order. Any person found involved in such activities can be liable for a fine of up to \$20,000, or in the case of a subsequent conviction, a fine of up to \$40,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 15 months.

Members of the public have also been to assist in ensuring safe aircraft operations and public safety by advising any persons involved in such hazardous activities to stop, as they may be unaware of the dangers of such acts, or report intentional acts to CAAS_ATS_ANSP@caas.gov.sg. Information on the date, time and location where the activity was observed will also be helpful for investigation.

