



Aircraft Overrun System to be Refurbished

For Immediate Release

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HYANNIS - Barnstable Municipal Airport will begin an important safety project Tuesday to refurbish the crushable cement pillow at the end of a key runway that is designed to stop an aircraft from overrunning a safety zone into populated areas.

The \$1 million undertaking will take about three weeks, according to Airport Manager Roland "Bud" Breault.

Airlines and private aircraft owners have been alerted that, depending on weather conditions, the project may cause intermittent flight delays and the short-term closing of Runway 6/24, a mile-long takeoff and landing strip.

The so-called engineered material arresting system (EMAS) was installed at the Hyannis airport in 2003 after a landing aircraft overshot the runway and breached a perimeter fence.

"The system needs a routine upgrade and strengthening," said Breault. "We will replace 58 of the 3,000 cement blocks and add a plastic surface coating for long-term protection."

EMAS systems are in use at 47 other U.S. airports including Boston's Logan Airport and at Worcester Regional Airport.

The work will be carried out by Zodiac Aerospace/Engineered Arresting Systems Corp. of Logan Township, New Jersey. The Federal Aviation Administration will pay 95 percent of the cost. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the airport will share in the remainder, Breault said.

The contractor has posted a video to show how the system works:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45lcXrgRiEY>.

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