

# ALERT BULLETIN

AB 2024:27/8-6  
12/23/2024  
2170485, 2185881

**TO:** Airport Manager, Chicago O'Hare Int'l, (ORD), FAA (AAS-1, AJV-A, ATM ORD ATCT)

**INFO:** FAA (Director of Air Traffic Operations CSA, AAS-300, AVP-1, AVP-200, AGL-600, AFS-260, AFS-200, AJI-144, Runway Safety Team), A4A, AAAE, ALPA, AOPA, APA, ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, CAPA, IATA, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB, RAA, SWAPA

**FROM:** Becky L. Hooley, Director  
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

**SUBJ:** ORD ILS PRM Communication Procedures

We recently received ASRS reports describing a safety concern that may involve your area of operational responsibility. We do not have sufficient details to assess either the factual accuracy or possible gravity of the report. It is our policy to relay the reported information to the appropriate authority for evaluation and any necessary follow-up. We feel you should be aware of the following:

ASRS received a report from an air carrier Captain expressing concern about communication distractions on the ORD ILS PRM approaches. Reporter stated that during the approach to Runway 28C there were two ATC entities transmitting simultaneously on the PRM frequency, causing confusion and distraction. Reporter further stated that they have seen this "many times".

Report 2185881 describes similar concerns and is also enclosed.

To properly assess the usefulness of our alert message service, we would appreciate it if you would take the time to give us your feedback on the value of the information that we have provided. Please contact Dr. Becky Hooley at (408) 541-2854 or email at [becky.l.hooley@nasa.gov](mailto:becky.l.hooley@nasa.gov).



Aviation Safety Reporting System  
P.O. Box 189 | Moffett Field, CA | 94035-0189



## ACN 2170485

### DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence	202409
Local Time Of Day	1201 to 1800

### PLACE

Locale	ORD.Tower
State	IL

### ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions	IMC
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### AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower	ORD
Make Model Name	Commercial Fixed Wing
Operating Under FAR Part	121

### PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew	Captain
Function - Flight Crew	Pilot Not Flying
ASRS Report Number	2170485

### EVENTS

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published Material / Policy
Detector - Person	Flight Crew
Result - General	None Reported / Taken

### NARRATIVE 1

This is a continuing problem, I have seen this \*many\* times before.

ORD was advertising ILS PRM approaches to the south runways, and we were indeed cleared for the ILS PRM 28C as were other aircraft in front of and behind us. When we switched to the PRM monitor frequency on Comm 2, either tower or ground was simultaneously transmitting on that frequency as well as whatever their primary frequency was. This leads to a dangerous situation: in my ears I've got two ATC frequencies stepping on each other when I need to clearly hear and understand what is being said on Comm 1 - and Comm 2, the monitor frequency, should only \*ever\* have information about a blundering aircraft. If I hear a second voice on the radio I am required to pay attention to it! Instead, I'm getting chatter about crossing runways, holding short, and follow whoever.

I'll add that at this time we are also conducting an ILS approach. It's not as if my workload is low here.

There are two pages in the ORD Jepp arrival pages devoted to the strict procedures we have to follow to safely accomplish PRM approaches. Somehow, ORD Tower feels like they do not have to follow these procedures when it's inconvenient. I did not question them this time, but I have in the past and was given a brush off.

### SYNOPSIS

Air carrier Captain reported while on approach the PRM monitoring frequency at ORD was active with various ATC instructions to other aircraft not on the PRM approach creating a distraction and adding to pilot workload.

## ACN 2185881

### DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence 202411  
Local Time Of Day No Local Time Of Day Stated

### PLACE

Locale ORD.Airport  
State IL

### ENVIRONMENT

Flight Conditions IMC

### AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

ATC / Advisory - Tower ORD  
Make Model Name Commercial Fixed Wing  
Operating Under FAR Part 121

### PERSON 1

Function - Flight Crew First Officer  
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Flying  
ASRS Report Number 2185881

### PERSON 2

Function - Flight Crew Captain  
Function - Flight Crew Pilot Not Flying  
ASRS Report Number 2185594

### EVENTS

Anomaly ATC Issue - All Types  
Anomaly Deviation / Discrepancy - Procedural - Published  
Material / Policy  
Detector - Person Flight Crew  
Result - General None Reported / Taken

### NARRATIVE 1

I was pilot flying in IMC on the ILS PRM Rwy 10C into ORD (Chicago O'Hare Airport). While on the approach, we were listening simultaneously to the Tower frequency 120.75 on com 1 and on com 2 the monitor frequency 119.625 as depicted on the ILS PRM Rwy 10C chart. The Captain and I noticed the Controller on the monitor frequency was also broadcasting multiple taxi instructions to other aircraft on the ground at ORD. Considering the situation and environment we were in, I find this concerning and a threat to the safety of flight. I landed the aircraft safely with no further incident.

### NARRATIVE 2

On approach to ORD runway 10C, assigned, cleared & executing the ILS PRM approach. Published Monitor Frequency (119.625) was tuned in VHF2, with audio selected, per SOP. There were no published NOTAM that any other frequency was in use.

During the approach, it appeared the Monitor Frequency was also being used to issue taxi instructions to ground traffic aircraft. This created a situation where the normal approach and Tower Controller instructions

were impeded multiple times, and it seemed there was divided attention to aircraft on approach should a PRM breakout be needed.

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## **SYNOPSIS**

Air carrier flight crew reported while on the ILS PRM 10C approach at ORD the monitor frequency was being used by ATC to issue taxi instructions. Flight crew stated concern that this created a safety of flight issue should a PRM breakout take place.