

3/5/2026

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2026-80/6-9

To: Airport Manager, Chicago O'Hare Int'l, (ORD), IL., FAA (AGL-600,
ATM ORD Tower)

2326131

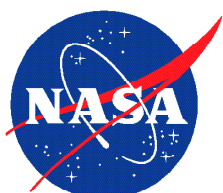
Info: FAA (Director of Air Traffic Operations CSA, AAS-1, AAS-300, AJV-A, AVP-1, AVP
-200, AFS-260, AFS-200, Runway Safety Team), A4A, AAAE, ALPA, AOPA, APA,
ASAP, ATSAP, ATSG, CAPA, IATA, ICASS, IFALPA, IPA, NATCA, NBAA, NTSB,
RAA, SWAPA, Jeppesen Sanderson Inc.

From: Becky L. Hooey, Director
NASA Aviation Safety Reporting System

Re: ORD ASDE Reliability Concerns

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 enclosed deidentified report.

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 Hooey at (408) 541-2854 or email at becky.l.hooey@nasa.gov.



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



ACN 2326131

DATE / TIME

Date of Occurrence	202601
Local Time Of Day	1801 to 2400

PLACE

Locale	ORD.Airport
State	IL

AIRCRAFT / EQUIPMENT X

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

PERSON 1

Function - Air Traffic Control	Local
ASRS Report Number	2326131

EVENTS

Anomaly	ATC Issue - All Types
Anomaly	Ground Event / Encounter - Ground Equipment Issue
Detector - Automation	Air Traffic Control

NARRATIVE 1

At approximately XA:15, Aircraft X was arriving 28C. A primary ASDE target lined up in the same position on the runway forcing an ASDE alert for Runway 28C to go around, due to it duplicating the target. Right after this, it sent ASDE malfunctioned, and caused Aircraft X's tag to drop to just a beacon code, as well as multiple aircraft that had arrived previously and were waiting on gates.

ASDE is falling apart and not able to either handle the increased amount of traffic, or is not being maintained and is now regularly malfunctioning dropping tags, resetting randomly, screens flashing, displays freezing, etc.

ASDE needs to either be taken offline for serious maintenance and checks before being brought back online, or we run the risk of controllers no longer trusting ASDE alerts, thereby making the safety logic built into it, just another annoying alert to ignore, like the Conflict Alert (CA) on STARS.

SYNOPSIS

ORD Tower Controller reported ASDE equipment displayed false targets and malfunctioned, dropping the tags of multiple aircraft.