

CAUTION

Keep handheld lasers safe and legal

NEVER AIM HANDHELD LASERS AT AIRCRAFT!

You may be arrested, and you may help get handheld lasers banned

IT IS BAD FOR PILOTS AND PASSENGER SAFETY

Distracting or flashblinding pilots is dangerous

They see a flash of light and don't know if someone is aiming a laser gunsight at them. Even consumer handheld lasers are bright enough to cause glare (pilots can't see past the light) or temporary flashblindness (like getting a camera flash in your eye).



Glare from a U.S.-legal 5 milliwatt laser pointer located 1200 feet from an aircraft. The runway cannot be seen when the laser is on the cockpit window.

IT IS BAD FOR YOU

You may get arrested

There are laser users arrested just about every month in the U.S. for aiming at aircraft. It is surprisingly easy to find you (and it is NOT a game to hit aircraft and try to remain undetected -- don't do it).

You may go to trial

This is expensive and a major hassle. You do NOT want to hire a lawyer to represent you in a trial with an upset state or federal prosecutor

You may go to jail

In October 2008, a California man was sentenced to two years in prison for aiming a 3 milliwatt laser pointer at an aircraft. Note that this was a 3 MILLIwatt laser, about the same strength as a supermarket scanner laser.

You may get shot

Because laser gunsights are common, police get very worried when someone points a laser at them. In Florida, a man was killed when he refused to stop pointing lasers at officers. You don't want to cause any misunderstanding where officers in a targeted police helicopter "shoot first and ask questions later."

IT IS BAD FOR OTHER HANDHELD LASER USERS

Handheld lasers may be banned

Laser-aircraft incidents happen about six times every night in the U.S. You can understand that pilots and the FAA are upset about this. If handheld lasers were banned in the U.S., this would be fine with them. Other countries such as Canada and the U.K. also are considering bans on handheld laser sales.

So if you like using laser pointers and handheld lasers, don't ruin it for everyone by adding to the long list of laser incidents.

Handheld lasers have already been banned in an Australian state

New South Wales officials got fed up after lasers hit aircraft landing at Sydney's airport, in March 2008. The Australian state banned laser pointers and handheld lasers and put them in the same "dangerous weapon" category as guns and crossbows. Possession and/or misuse of lasers can get you a fine or even up to 14 years (!) in prison.

Here's how to keep handheld lasers safe and legal:

NEVER
aim a laser beam
at an aircraft, a
vehicle, or towards
people. In other words,
DON'T ANNOY PEOPLE
WITH THE LASER
BEAM.

Get more tips from www.LaserPointerSafety.com

This flyer intended for Class 3B portable handheld lasers which are too powerful to be sold as laser pointers (for example, lasers >5 mW in the U.S.). Similar flyers are available from www.LaserPointerSafety.com for Class 2 and 3R laser pointers, and for Class 4 handheld lasers.