

Lift – Foreign Object Damage

This resource will help you with the following stages;

Stage 5 – I understand what FOD is.

FOD primarily stands for Foreign Object Damage. A “Foreign Object” is something, or a piece of something, which should not be lying about on the airfield, because it might cause damage to an aircraft (e.g. by bursting a tyre, or by getting sucked into an engine). These things that might cause damage are usually referred to as “debris”.

Examples of debris could be: bits of tyre rubber, small pieces of metal, bits of stone, litter, plastic bottles, birds, animals, and so on. Sources of debris include parts falling off aircraft, building works on the airfield, litter and other items blown onto the airfield by weather, or litter left by visitors to the airfield. Even a relatively small item can cause costly damage to an aircraft.

Damage caused to a jet engine by a bird strike



A major source of Foreign Object Damage is from **bird strikes**. At high speed, the impact of a bird hitting an aircraft may crack a window, or damage an engine, causing it to fail. Many airfields take special measures to reduce the risk of bird strikes, such as using loud noises to scare birds away. Airfields located close to large bodies of water, to

farms, or to municipal waste dumps, must take particular care, as these areas tend to cause large flocks of birds to congregate.

As well as referring to the damage that is caused by Foreign Objects, **FOD** is also used to refer to the **Foreign Object Debris** that causes the damage



FOD collected at an Airfield

FOD can also occur inside an aircraft, if parts become dislodged inside.

Here are some key things to keep in mind.

- Do not drop any litter, or other objects, when visiting an airfield.
- Do not leave anything (such as backpacks) lying around anywhere that it shouldn't be.
- If you see a piece of Foreign Object Debris, you can bring it to the attention of someone in charge.
- Remember to keep your own safety, and the safety of those around you, in mind at all times when on an airfield.
- The principles of "Leave No Trace" apply to airfields too.

