RUNWAY INCURSION

Civil Aviation Authority

259 passengers killed in air cr
driver took wrong turn onto r

by Nic Stevens

Air Accident Investigators said last night that they belie
accident in which 259 passengers on an airline flight die
was caused by an airside driver taking the wrong turning
ending up on the runway directly in front of the Boeing 7

Despite a series of red lights warning the driver that h
enter the runway he still seems to have driven straight
Last night the driver was named as a Mr John Smith fr
He was married with two teenage children

A fellow airside driver at the airport, who knew Mr Sm
said: "He'd been working at the airport for over 10 yea

Only last week he said he knew the airport like the bac
his hand and he reckoned he could drive the route blindf
I just can't understand how he could have ended up on
runway."

A Civil Aviation Authority spokesman said there wa
a world-wide campaign to highlight the dangers of runw
incursions. "This is the first major accident in the UK c
by a runway incursion but incidents such as this have
elsewhere in the world such as the Milan Linate accide
He added: "Everyone in the airside environment needs
aware of the risk pilots and air traffic controllers are jus
as likely to be involved in an incident as drivers."

As investigators continued to pick through the wreck
for clues one member of the team said: "This accident wa
most certainly preventable. Had the driver exercised caut
and followed procedures we would not be in the position
now in."

Police were still trying to trace the next of kin of man
of those killed last night.

even if you do know the airport like the back of your hand be extra vigilant when driving airside.

Report runway incursions through the Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme