



Helicopter Operations with Geophysical Operations

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

First Published 04 - 2000

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Information Alert

04-00

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It has come to our attention that several unplanned events have taken place. You are requested to conduct and document a Safety Meeting concerning these occurrences to identify and manage the risks.

Explanation

Recently, there has been an alarming increase in the number of minor incidents with helicopter operations on geophysical exploration sites. Such incidents include power line strikes with a longline, bags being dropped from the carousel, tail and main rotor strikes.

Recommendations

- Hazard for the aircraft and aircrew should be identified on a hazard map and should be included in safety meetings. In addition, personnel working on the ground should assist the pilot by visually identifying hazards and marking them accordingly;
- Landing zones should be cut and checked to ensure that their size and construction is within the proper parameters as required for that type and size of aircraft being utilized;
- Full and proper briefings should be given from the aircrew to all personnel on the site at the beginning of any job, and on a regular basis after that;
- Regular maintenance of the belly hook, carousel, and long line should be conducted by an AME as per manufacturers specifications and recommendations;
- Any time visual contact of a person on the ground is lost by the pilot, the load should never be set down until it is re-established or he is in constant radio communication with that individual worker;
- Wherever possible, aircraft should never be flown directly over a seismic line or where personnel are working;
- Workers should keep a constant vigil when the helicopter is working in their immediate vicinity, and hearing and head protection should be worn where the circumstances dictates
- Orientations to pilots who are unfamiliar with seismic operations is mandatory.

Your well being and safety is most important to us! Please ensure that this information is posted and discussed with all workers prior to proceeding to the field.