



Helicopter Long Line Strikes High Tension Guide Wire

CAGC SAFETY ALERT

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Safety Alert

03-07

Incident Date

January 14, 2007

Incident Location

North of Robb, Alberta

Description of the Incident

A 350B2 Helicopter was deploying seismic equipment using a 150 foot long line along Hwy 47, north of Robb, Alberta. The Pilot was flying south-westerly and had completed 2 of 5, bag drops northeast of the incident site. After releasing the 2nd of the 5 bags the Pilot noted the power line to the north of his position. The Pilot proceeded to gain elevation while flying southwestward, for the next bag drop, as the Pilot crossed the Hwy the long line encountered an unmarked high tension guide wire supporting a transition of the power line. The Pilot was then forced to activate the emergency release as the aircraft long line struck the guide wire. The Pilot regained control of the aircraft and then noted the supported power pole had split and fallen to the ground. The Pilot then activated the Emergency Response Plan and flew back to staging.

Recommendations and Outcomes

- 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;
- Pilots to participate in work site hazard analyzes and communication;
- When aircrew change out for regular rotation, departing aircrew to brief arriving aircrew on project procedures and review any change(s) in work site hazard analysis, this is to be documented;
- Orientations for aircrew new to site are mandatory. Arriving aircrew must check into crew office before entering job site for briefing and / or job site orientation;
- Helicopter flight paths must be arranged so as to reduce the potential for low altitude encounters with overhead lines.

Additional Incident Information

- The power line enters the Hwy right-of-way from the cut line constructed for the power line right-of-way;
- The receiver line (R171) crosses Hwy 47 just before the power line enters the Hwy right-of-way;
- The unmarked high tension guide wire supporting the transition of the power line crosses the Hwy.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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