



HSAC-RP

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HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE-RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

Gas Venting Helideck / Heliport Operational Hazard Warning(s) / Procedures

Operations near Gas Vent Booms

Ignited flare booms can release a large volume of natural gas and create a hot intense heat with little time for the pilot to react. Likewise, un-ignited gas vents can release reasonably large volumes of methane gas under certain conditions. Thus, operations conducted in close proximity to un-ignited gas vents require precautions to prevent inadvertent ingestion of combustible gases by the helicopter engine(s). The following is recommended.

1. Pilots

- (a) Gas will drift upwards and downwind of the vent. Plan the approach and takeoff to observe and **avoid the area downwind or directly over the gas vent.** remaining as far away as practicable from the open end of the vent boom.
- (b) Exercise caution when starting or landing on an offshore helideck when the deck is downwind of a gas vent.

2. Oil Field Supervisors

- (a) Notify nearby helicopter operators and bases of the hazard for planned operations.
- (b) Wind socks or indicator should be clearly visible to provide upward indication for the pilot.
- (c) High volume large gas vents should have red rotating beacons installed to indicate when gas is venting.

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