

HSAC Recommended Practice (RP) # 2004-3

Single Pilot and Passenger Safe Operations Commitment

Background

Annually the offshore oil industry suffers from accidents and incidents as a result of a lack of situational awareness by both pilots and passengers.

Contributing Causes of Incidents/Accidents by Pilots and Passenger

1. Lack of pilot situational awareness during: deteriorating weather, high winds, helideck operations and helicopter rapid refueling.
2. Improper passenger procedure during hot loading and unloading of helicopter.
3. Improper representation of passenger and cargo weights on flight manifest.

Recommended Practices

1. Pilots:

- a. Strictly follow company or customer weather minimums. During periods of inclement weather pilot will update weather to insure company and customer weather minimums are being followed.
- b. Follow company wind limitations for make and model of aircraft.
- c. Integrate passengers as a second set of eyes during all phases of helicopter operations. While the passenger is not an aviation professional, request that he/she brings to the pilot's attention any condition that he/she feels to be unsafe.
- d. Follow HSAC RP 94-1 (Helicopter Rapid Refueling Procedures).
- e. Helideck hazard reports should be submitted to companies with follow-up actions initiated by the helicopter company.
- f. During passenger briefing: designate a passenger to secure all doors and baggage compartment(s). This passenger will insure all windows are closed, seat belts are secured inside the helicopter and that the baggage compartment(s) have been properly closed. However the pilot is still responsible for securing the aircraft prior to flight.

2. Passengers:

- a. Designated passenger will visually notify the pilot with thumbs up that the aircraft has been secured and the flight deck is clear of loose articles prior to exiting the helideck. All passengers should be proactive in securing the helicopter for flight.
- b. Passengers will follow all pilot instructions and act as a second set of eyes for all phases of flight. Passengers will bring to the pilot's attention any condition that he/she feels to be unsafe.
- c. Passengers must meet all requirements set forth in HSAC RP 94-1 in order to refuel helicopters.
- d. Passengers will provide accurate body and cargo weights on the flight manifest to insure the helicopter is operated within manufactures limitations.

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