



# HSAC-RP

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HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE-RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

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## Crane - Helicopter Operational Procedures

### Background

Historical experience has shown that catastrophic consequences can occur when industry safe practices for crane-helicopter operations are not observed. The following recommended practices will minimize risks during crane and helicopter operations.

### Recommended Practice

Helicopter Operators should incorporate policy into their Company Operations Manual that provides guidance to Pilot(s) when operating on helidecks which are in proximity to crane(s), or cranes that may be operated in the flight path of an approaching or departing aircraft.

Similarly, Oil Companies should incorporate and communicate procedures which address helicopter operations into their crane policy.

1. Personnel awareness:
  - (a) Crane operators and pilots should develop a mutual understanding and respect of the others' operational limitations and cooperate in the spirit of safety;
  - (b) Pilots need to be aware that crane operators sometimes cannot release the load to cradle the crane boom, such as when attached to wire line lubricators or supporting diving bells; and
  - (c) Crane operators need to be aware that helicopters require warm up before takeoff, and possibly a cool down before shutdown, and cannot circle for extended lengths of time because of fuel consumption.

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2. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT WHEN HELICOPTERS ARE APPROACHING, MANEUVERING, TAKING OFF, OR RUNNING ON THE HELIPORT, CRANES BE SHUTDOWN AND THE OPERATOR LEAVE THE CAB.
3. Cranes not in use shall have their booms cradled, if feasible. If in use, the crane's boom(s) are to be pointed away from the heliport and the crane shutdown for helicopter operations.
4. Pilots should not approach, land on, takeoff or have rotor blades turning on heliports of structures not complying with the above practice unless direct coordination has been established.
5. Additional considerations include:
  - (a) Direct communication with crane operator preferred
  - (b) Red rotating beacon or red high intensity strobe light connected to the system powering the crane, indicating the crane is under power
  - (c) Paint crane boom tips, headache balls, and hooks with high visibility or contrasting color
  - (d) Crane operator should wear brightly colored vest to enhance visibility to aircrews