



## **2023 HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE (HSAC) GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW**

April 28, 2024

HSAC Members:

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2023 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) Offshore Helicopter Operations and Safety Review". The membership support and response from six (6) helicopter operators for this review is not only appreciated but is vital in establishing a meaningful report.

The level of flying activity for 2023 had mixed results. All categories of twin-engine flight activity saw an increase in flight hours flown, landing / takeoffs and passengers carried but saw a decrease in and total fleet count compared to 2022. Some signs point to challenges with parts availability being a contributing factor for the decrease in available fleet size when all other metrics in this space increased.

Comparatively, single engine flight activity saw a notable decrease in flight hours flown, passengers carried, and fleet size while simultaneously seeing a slight increase in landing / takeoffs. Flight hours flown by single engine aircraft were at the lowest level since 1995 when this HSAC first started reporting on these statistics.

Unfortunately, there was one (1) accident during the year (Single Engine). Fortunately, there were zero (0) fatalities from this accident. This one accident was part of a training event and no passengers were onboard. This caused the overall five (5) year average accident rate to decrease to 1.2 and the fatal accident rate decrease to 0.65 per 100,000 flight hours. This is a trend in the right direction but remains a reminder of the importance of diligence in all aspects of aviation operations.

The leading causes, not all inclusive, of the accidents since 1999 are listed below, and secondary causes of these events include 15 related to helideck size or design related issues.

- 21 engine related,
- 28 loss of control or improper procedures,
- 21 helideck obstacle strikes,
- 13 controlled flight into terrain, and
- 14 other technical failures

HSAC has published several Recommended Practices to address these issues and they can be reviewed at [www.HSAC.org](http://www.HSAC.org). We are optimistic that by widely and openly sharing this information with all operators and other oil industry groups that additional safety initiatives may be developed and implemented to further reduce accidents and incidents with the ultimate goal of zero events.

Again, thank you for your prompt responses and continued support. It is your hard work and leadership that drive safety improvements in this industry.

Respectfully,  
Eric Shores

# HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE (HSAC) 2023 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW



## GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL DATA SUMMARY

YEAR	NUMBERS by TYPE HELICOPTER					PASSENGERS CARRIED	HOURS FLOWN	NUMBER OF FLIGHTS
	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET			
2019	142	20	83	31	276	1,138,433	163,286	411,308
2020	120	18	67	29	234	788,242	119,195	275,579
2021	95	15	55	32	197	962,887	127,234	289,375
2022	103	13	66	30	212	1,140,458	147,794	302,723
<b>2023</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>781393</b>	<b>124348</b>	<b>353363</b>

## GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL DATA DETAILS

YEAR	HOURS by TYPE HELICOPTER					OPERATIONS (Takeoff/Landings) by TYPE HELICOPTER				
	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET
2019	92,093	5,852	42,441	22,900	163,286	297,387	13,255	66,697	33,969	411,308
2020	64,864	4,838	29,777	19,716	119,195	191,738	8,112	44,875	30,854	275,579
2021	70,578	4,412	30,744	21,500	127,234	203,444	6,234	45,724	33,973	289,375
2022	86,883	3,226	34,866	22,819	147,794	204,722	5,549	54,067	38,385	302,723
<b>2023</b>	<b>59,221</b>	<b>3,749</b>	<b>38,017</b>	<b>38,017</b>	<b>124,348</b>	<b>228,072</b>	<b>9,063</b>	<b>71,834</b>	<b>44,394</b>	<b>353,363</b>

## GULF OF MEXICO HELICOPTER FLEET OPERATIONAL DATA

Averages Per Helicopter	2021	2022	2023
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	3,703	4,386	<b>3005</b>
Flights Per Day	793	829	<b>968</b>
Average Flight Duration in Min.	26	29	<b>21</b>

Averages Per Helicopter	2021	2022	2023
Annual Hours Per Aircraft	646	697	<b>631</b>
Flights Per Aircraft	1,469	1,428	<b>1794</b>
Passengers Flown Per Aircraft	4,888	5,380	<b>3966</b>

As a service to the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) membership, this Gulf of Mexico Offshore Helicopter Statistical Report is compiled annually from information submitted voluntarily by the membership and helicopter operators. The information is neither verified nor reviewed for accuracy and should be treated as unofficial. The data is believed to be representative; however, the HSAC assumes no liability for accuracy or completeness.

*Dedicated to Safety Through Cooperation Since 1978*

# HSAC 2023 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW



## GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS				INJURY CLASSIFICATION				AIRCRAFT DAMAGES			AVIATION ACCIDENT			
Aircraft Category		#		Occupant Type		Severity		Classification			Rates			
Type Aircraft	# Accidents	# Fatal	# Eng Related	Pax	Crew	Injured	Fatal	Minor	Substantial	Total Loss	# Acc 100k Hours	# Fatal Acc 100k Hours	# Fatal 1M Occupants	# Acc 100k Flt Stages
Single Eng.	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1.69	0	0	0.44
Light Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Med. Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2023 Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.28</b>

## GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT CAUSES/INFO

2023	Technical		Pilot Procedure Related							OTHER				MISC	
	Power Loss, multi-cause	Other	Tie-down Proc.	Loss Control or Improper Proced.	Loose Cargo	Flight Into Terrain, Water (CFITW)	Fuel Mgmt	Obstacle Strike		Fuel Qual	Weather non-CFIT	U N K	Pax Control or HLO Proced.	Helideck Design or Size Issues	Fatalities Due to Engine Malf.
								Helideck	Other						
Single Eng.	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Light Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Med. Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hvy Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1999-2023 Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>

## FIVE YEAR GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA

Year	Number Of Aircraft Accidents		Injury Classification				Aircraft Damages			Aviation Accident			
	Outcome		Occupant Type		Severity		Classification			Rates			
	# Accidents	# Fatal	Pax	Crew	Injured	Fatal	Minor	Substantial	Total Loss	# Acc 100k Hrs	# Fatal Acc 100k Hrs	# Fatal 1 M Occupants	# Acc 100k Flt Stages
2019	2	2	2	2	0	4	0	0	2	1.22	1.22	2.42	0.49
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2021	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.35
2022	5	3	12	7	5	7	0	1	4	3.38	2.03	4.56	1.65
2023	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.28
<b>5 Yr. Avg.</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.24</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>0.55</b>