



2018 HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE (HSAC) GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW

February 12, 2019

HSAC Members:

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2018 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) Offshore Helicopter Operations and Safety Review". The membership support and response from nine (9) helicopter operators for this review is not only appreciated, but vital in establishing a meaningful report. Thank you for your timely responses and continued support.

The level of annual flying activity for 2018 has continued to decrease as compared to the past several years with the total number of flights decreasing from 491,697 in 2017 to 435,528 in 2018. The number of medium twin engine helicopters experienced a slight increase again this year, while the rest of the helicopter fleets numbers decreased. However, due to the increase in the number of mediums, the total fleet has increased by two (2).

Unfortunately, there was one (1) accident in 2018, which was a ground taxi accident with no injuries, but resulted in substantial damage to the helicopter. The resulting 2018 accident rate is 0.55 and the fatal accident rate is 0.00. The five-year average GoM oil industry helicopter accident rates have all shown a favorable decrease. The five-year accident rate per 100,000 flight hours is down to 0.83 from 0.91 in 2017. The average fatal accident rate per 100,000 flight hours is down to 0.28 from 0.35 in 2017. Congratulations on your continued efforts to provide safe transportation in the Gulf of Mexico.

The leading causes, not all inclusive, of the accidents since 1999 are listed below, and secondary causes of these events include 13 related to helideck size or design related issues.

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

HSAC has published a number of Recommended Practices to address these issues and they can be reviewed at 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 an ultimate goal of zero events.

Respectfully,

Terry Duprie
HSAC Committee Member

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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			
2014	271	52	96	46	465	2,043,649	296,001	741,201
2015	179	37	80	50	346	1,769,630	223,545	589,076
2016	188	39	69	48	344	1,498,418	196,484	526,981
2017	182	29	80	43	334	1,322,160	188,799	491,688
2018	176	25	97	38	336	1,234,195	182,338	435,528

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
2014	159,859	22,933	76,188	37,021	296,001	477,117	81,734	121,820	60,530	741,201
2015	127,325	17,003	43,471	35,746	228,905	392,814	54,895	88,257	62,110	549,078
2016	118,695	11,308	39,846	26,635	196,484	377,781	34,356	69,785	45,059	526,981
2017	116,408	10,880	38,027	23,484	188,799	373,773	22,474	57,410	38,031	491,697
2018	109,647	7,186	41,096	24,409	182,337	315,592	18,045	64,644	37,247	435,528

GULF OF MEXICO HELICOPTER FLEET OPERATIONAL DATA

Averages Per Helicopter	2016	2017	2018	Averages Per Helicopter	2016	2017	2018
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	5,763	5,124	4,747	Annual Hours Per Aircraft	571	565	543
Flights Per Day	1,444	1,347	1,193	Flights Per Aircraft	1,532	1,472	1,296
Average Flight Duration in Min.	22	23	25	Passengers Flown Per Year	4,356	3,989	3,673

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.

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HSAC 2018 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.	0	0	0	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
Med. Twin	1*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2018 Totals	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.55	0	0	0.23

*Accident was ground taxi related

GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT CAUSES/INFO

	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						
	Technical		Pilot Procedure Related						OTHER				MISC		
Single Eng	0	0	0	0	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
2018	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
99-2018 Ttls	21	13	4	25	6	13	6	17	1	4	3	7	4	11	6

FIVE YEAR GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA

Year	Number Of Accidents			Injury Classification				Aircraft Damages			Aviation Accident			
	Aircraft	Category		Occupant Type		Severity		Classification			Rates			
	# Accidents	# Fatal	# Eng Related	Pax	Crew	Injured	Fatal	Minor	Substantial	Total Loss	# Acc 100k Hrs	# Fatal Acc 100k Hrs	# Fatal 1 M Occupants	# Acc 100k Flt Stages
2014	2	1	0	2	2	0	2	0	1	1	0.68	0.34	0.67	0.27
2015	3	0	0	5	3	1	0	0	2	1	1.31	0.00	0.00	0.51
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	3	2	0	7	3	2	2	1	0	2	1.59	1.06	1.05	0.61
2018	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.23
5 Yr. Avg.	1.8	0.6	0.0	2.8	1.6	0.6	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.83	0.28	0.34	0.32