



## 2021 HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE (HSAC) GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW

February 10, 2022

HSAC Members:

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2021 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) Offshore Helicopter Operations and Safety Review". The membership support and response from seven (7) helicopter operators for this review is not only appreciated, but is vital in establishing a meaningful report. Thank you for your prompt responses and continued support.

The level of annual flying activity for 2021 increased slightly as compared to the decline over the past few years with the total number of flights going from 411,308 in 2019 to 275,579 in 2020 and up to 289,375 in 2021. The overall numbers in most operational categories are up, some by a little and others by more. The pandemic continues to challenge the industry, but it is good news to see the increase in flight activity. It will certainly be welcome for this positive trend to continue as things recover.

Unfortunately, there was one (1) accident during the year. However, the helicopter operators managed to achieve ZERO injuries / fatalities in another extremely challenging year. The 5 year average accident rate increased from 0.67 to 0.83 per 100,000 flight hours. There is a trend of doing more with less, for example decreases in the numbers of helicopters across the board, yet increases year-over-year in passengers carried, hours flown, and number of flights conducted. Nonetheless, with the unforgiving nature of offshore helicopter operations it is always wise to take an opportunity to pause, reflect, assess, train, and continue the charge to improve our Gulf of Mexico operations

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,
- 19 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](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 an 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,

Terry Duprie

# HELICOPTER SAFETY ADVISORY CONFERENCE (HSAC) 2021 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			
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
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
<b>2021</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>968,887</b>	<b>127,234</b>	<b>289,375</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
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
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
<b>2021</b>	<b>70,578</b>	<b>4,412</b>	<b>30,744</b>	<b>21,500</b>	<b>127,234</b>	<b>203,444</b>	<b>6,234</b>	<b>45,724</b>	<b>33,973</b>	<b>289,375</b>

## GULF OF MEXICO HELICOPTER FLEET OPERATIONAL DATA

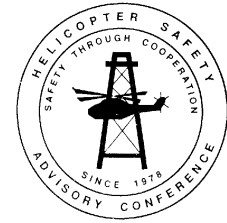
Averages Per Helicopter	2019	2020	2021
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	4,379	3,032	<b>3,703</b>
Flights Per Day	1,127	755	<b>793</b>
Average Flight Duration in Min.	24	26	<b>26</b>

Averages Per Helicopter	2019	2020	2021
Annual Hours Per Aircraft	592	509	<b>646</b>
Flights Per Aircraft	1,490	1,178	<b>1,469</b>
Passengers Flown Per Aircraft	4,124	3,369	<b>4,888</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 2021 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AND SAFETY REVIEW



## GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA

Number of Accidents Aircraft Category				Injury Classification				Aircraft Damages Classification			Aviation Accident Rates			
				Occupant Type		Severity					# Acc 100k Hours	# Fatal Acc 100k Hours	# Fatal 1 M Occupants	# Acc 100k Flt Stages
Type Aircraft	# Accidents	# Fatal	# Eng. Related	Pax	Crew	Injured	Fatal	Minor	Substantial	Total Loss	# Acc 100k Hours	# Fatal Acc 100k Hours	# Fatal 1 M Occupants	# Acc 100k Flt Stages
Single Eng.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
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>2021 Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.35</b>

## 2021 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT CAUSES/INFO

Type Aircraft	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	UNK	Pax Control or HLO Proced.	Helideck Design or Size Issues	Fatalities Due to Engine Malf.
								Helideck	Other						
Single Eng.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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>1999-2021 Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</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

Number of Accidents Aircraft Category				Injury Classification				Aircraft Damages Classification			Aviation Accident Rates			
				Occupant Type		Severity					# Acc 100k Hrs	# Fatal Acc 100k Hrs	# Fatal 1 M Occupants	# Acc 100k Flt Stages
Year	# 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
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
2019	2	2	0	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	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>2021</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.35</b>
<b>5 Yr. Avg.</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>0.34</b>