

**HSAC Members: March 29, 2010**

**HSAC Members:**

Please find attached the Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference (HSAC) "2009 Gulf of Mexico Offshore Safety Review". The membership support and response from 12 helicopter operators for this review is in establishing a meaningful report.

The Gulf of Mexico (GoM) has experienced a consolidation of operators in recent years, having gone from 8 to 12 now. The 8 accidents recorded in 2009 were in line with the average number of 8.3 of accidents in the gathering statistics in 1984.

The 2009 GoM oil industry helicopter accident rate per 100,000 flight hours was 2.32 with a total of 8 accidents (two each light and medium twin) compared to a 26-year annual average accident rate of 1.76. The fatal accident rate per 100,000 flight hours during 2009 was 0.29 with one fatal accident (8 fatalities) compared to a 26-year average of 0.65. In the last 5 years, there have been 31 accidents of which 7 were fatal (22%), resulting in 23 fatalities and 10 not all inclusive, of accidents in the last 11 years have been:

- 19 engine related
- 15 loss of control or improper procedures
- 15 helideck obstacle strikes
- 10 controlled flight into terrain
- 11 other technical failures

HSAC has published a number of Recommended Practices to address these issues and they can be reviewed. We are optimistic that by sharing this information with all operators and other oil industry group's, safety initiatives can be implemented to further reduce accidents and incidents.

**Bob Williams**  
**Industry Liaison Committee Member**

**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			
2005	424	48	99	18	589	2,625,322	389,544	1,310,736
2006	367	59	124	25	584	2,762,317	406,564	1,246,172
2007	387	61	123	35	606	2,953,484	410,797	1,294,141
2008	365	49	107	30	551	2,936,772	410,321	1,245,770
2009*	312	41	103	39	495	2,477,834	344,817	1,195,667

\* Data extracted from voluntary input of 12 helicopter operators in the Gulf of Mexico

**GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER OPERATIONAL DATA DETAILS**

HOURS by TYPE HELICOPTER	OPERATIONS by TYPE HELICOPTER
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YEAR	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN	TOTAL FLEET	SINGLE ENGINE	LIGHT TWIN	MEDIUM TWIN	HEAVY TWIN)	TOTAL FLEET
	275,225	21,386	80,787	12,146	389,544	1,062,942	65,076	162,476	20,242	1,310,736
<b>2006</b>	283,304	25,118	79,207	18,935	406,564	984,612	78,074	153,822	32,059	1,246,172
<b>2007</b>	280,683	27,617	81,895	20,602	410,797	1,019,611	90,109	153,402	31,019	1,294,141
<b>2008</b>	282,958	25,939	79,291	22,133	410,321	976,611	82,233	152,235	34,691	1,245,770
<b>2009</b>	240,507	23,878	62,195	18,237	344,817	957,756	87,771	117,438	32,702	1,195,667

### GULF OF MEXICO HELICOPTER FLEET OPERATIONAL DATA

Averages Per Helicopter	2007	2008	2009	Averages Per Helicopter	2007	2008	2009
Passengers per Day per 5 Day Week	11,360	11,295	<b>9,530</b>	<b>Annual Hours Per Aircraft</b>	678	745	697
<b>Flights Per Day</b>	3,546	3,413	3,276	<b>Flights Per Aircraft</b>	2,136	2,261	2,415
<b>Average Flight Duration in Min.</b>	19	20	17	<b>Passengers Flown Per Year</b>	4,874	5,330	5,006

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

### 2009 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS				INJURY CLASSIFICATION				AIRCRAFT DAMAGES			AVIATION ACCIDENT RATES		
Aircraft Category		Injuries		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 Occupa Hours
<b>Single Eng.</b>	4	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1.66	0.00	0.00
<b>Light Twin</b>	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	8.38	0.00	0.00
<b>Med. Twin</b>	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.22	1.61	8.69
<b>Heavy Twin</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>2009 Totals</b>	8	1	1	7	4	3	11	2	4	2	2.23	0.29	2.09

<b>2008 Totals</b>	2	1	0	4	1	0	5	1	0	1	0.49	0.24	1.14
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\* Note - There was one additional ditching in 2009 due to loss of power that was not recorded as an accident

**2009 GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT CAUSES/INFO**

Type	Power Loss, multi-cause	Other	Tie-down Proc.	Loss Control or Improper Proc.	Loose Cargo	Flight Into Terrain, Water (CFITW)	Fuel Mgmt	Obstacle Helideck	Strike Other	Fuel Qual.	Weather non-CFIT	Unk	Pax Control or HLO Proc.	He D or Iss
	Technical		Pilot Procedure Related											
Single Eng	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	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
Hvy Twin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>2000</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
99-08 Ttls	18	8	2	14	4	10	5	12	1	4	2	7	4	9

**FIVE YEAR GULF OF MEXICO OFFSHORE HELICOPTER ACCIDENT DATA Injuries**

Number Of Accidents				Injury Classification				Aircraft Damages			Aviation	
Aircraft	Category			Severity		Classification		Rates			Total	# Acc 1
Year	# Accidents	# Fatal	# Eng Related	Pax	Crew	Injured	Fatal	Minor	Substantial	Loss	Hrs	
2005	8	2	2	16	7	18	5	0	4	4	2.05	
<b>2006</b>	6	1	1	4	3	5	2	1	1	4	1.48	
<b>2007</b>	7	2	0	4	5	6	3	0	5	2	1.70	
<b>2008</b>	2	1	0	4	1	0	5	1	0	1	0.49	
<b>2009</b>	8	1	1	7	4	3	8	2	4	2	2.32	
<b>5 Yr. Avg.</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>1.61</b>	

\*Note - There were three (3) ditchings in 2010 -> 2 due to loss of power and 1 due to tail rotor malfunction

*accidents. Had these been classified as accidents by the NTSB, the accident rate would have been 0.90 per 1 flights.*

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