

Aerial Observation Committee Meeting Notes- January 14, 2009

Helicopter Safety Advisory Conference

Hilton New Orleans Airport

HSAC.org

Meeting opened 0745

-Welcome- Mark Small

-New faces

-Agenda review

Cook Inlet near-miss discussion: Incident involved a Eurocopter helicopter (BO-105) and fixed-wing (Cessna-206), both on pipeline patrol.

Lessons:

-All installed equipment turned on and operational

-Use unicom frequency to announce position of aircraft

-Brief passengers to watch for other aircraft

-Use observers on pipeline patrol

-Never assume the airspace is clear

-Insure contractors are aware of each other

Flight Safety Review- Tom Buchner

Hours increased for 2007- 60,000+ hours total submitted

Accident rate drop- but only due to increase in reported hours (3 accidents per 100,000 hours)

2008 accidents

July 2- Cessna 152 in California- pipeline (one fatality)

July 18- Helicopter in AR- power line (two fatalities)

Sep 7- Grumman Cheetah- pipeline- (two fatalities)

Nov 16- Bell Helicopter in AR- Game and Fish dept. (one fatality)

Other 2008 accidents not included in the accident rate:

January 7- Bell 206B accident in Germany, (fatal +1 injured)

January 15- helicopter accident in Peru (no fatalities)

April 16- Fatal helicopter accident in Russia

One or two-man crews- Mark Adolph

Mark discussed accident numbers and the benefits of two-man crews. He would like to keep this item on the Aerial Patrol Group agenda until a decision is made and an RP can be written.

Topic tabled for further discussion

Review of Changes to Appendix 11 of the OGP- John O'Neil, BP

John discussed changes to Appendix 11 of the OGP. He indicated that a copy of the OGP document is available on the web, and that the goal of the revision to appendix 11 is to rewrite the aerial patrol section. This rewrite will incorporate

RPs from the aerial patrol group to harmonize the language between the RPs and the OGP. Further discussion of changes to Appendix 11 will be made at HAI (Anaheim), and the group discussed the OGP standards as they relate to patrol operations.

Mark Small asked that Aerial Patrol Group members do a better job of responding to emails pertaining to RPs and their revisions. He also asked that members respond with a reply even if they have no input to offer.

UAV technology presentation- RAM project

Gwenette Broussard of Shell pipeline discussed the RAM project, which is geared toward the design and development of new technology for pipeline observation. The target date for completion of these technologies is 2011.

RP Discussion:

Discussion was made on Pilot/Observer training RP
Changes were made, tracked, and agreed upon by those in attendance
Mark Small will clean up the document and prepare for submittal to HSAC

Rodney Gengo- TransCanada- Computerized patrol system

Discussed automated computer-based patrol sighting reporting system.

Closing discussions: remaining action plan items

Meeting closed: 1215

Next Aerial Patrol Group meeting: May 2009