Safety Report

USHST Goal: Reduce the U.S. helicopter fatal accident rate 20% by the end of 2019 (20% by 2020)

The U.S. Fatal Helicopter Accident Rate for 31 Mar 2019 is 0.75 per 100,000 flight hours, which is 0.14 above the EOY goal.

The CY 2019 USHST “All Hands” meeting will be held at Robinson Helicopters in Torrance, CA on 14 - 15 August.

The Helicopter Safety Alliance will have an OUTREACH event on 16 August!

CICTT Occurrence Codes

Low Altitude (LALT)

Usage Notes:
- “collision or near collision” with obstacles/objects/terrain while intentionally operating near the surface (excludes takeoff or landing phases).
- In layman’s terms, the helicopter hit something while operating low

Industry

UPAC

Get the UPAC Safety Guide for Helicopter Operators!

Join the FAA Safety Team to find your regional helicopter safety events!

Outreach

Dallas Regional Helicopter Safety Stand-Down

April 19 @ 7:30 am - 4:00 pm EDT

USHST Helicopter Safety Enhancement (H-SE)

Helicopter Safety Enhancement (H-SE) 91: Enhanced Helicopter Vision Systems

FAA and industry to research, develop, and promote the use of enhanced helicopter vision systems (EHVS) technologies (e.g. Night Vision Goggles, Enhanced Vision Systems, Synthetic Vision Systems, Combined Vision Systems, etc.) to assist in recognizing and preventing unplanned flight into degraded visibility conditions due to weather and to increase safety during planned flight at night.

FUTURE WORK: Intervention Strategy 157: FAA and industry to develop improved on-board wire strike protection devices. The intent is to expand the capabilities of currently available WSPS kits and potential new technologies. Note: The USHST is not pursuing this issue as it fell below our USHST “cut” line.
Flying in the Wire Environment

Per the USHST fatal accident dataset, Low Altitude (LALT) accounted for 15% (16) fatal events for calendar years 2009 - 2013. The preliminary accident data reviewed for 2014 - 2018 was comparable.

In CY2018, the U.S. helicopter industry experienced 15 “Wire Strike” related events.

(6) Incidents
(5) Accidents
(4) Fatal Accidents with 7 Fatalities

Bottom-Line: If you don’t have to fly low fly at a known altitude that will provide you a safe clearance from all know obstacles!

Each year the U.S. helicopter industry safely flies more than 3.2 million flight hours and every second of every flight must be handled with professionalism.

The USHST strongly encourages aviation safety professionals to review NTSB accident reports with emphasis on the Accident Analysis, Probable Cause, Findings and Recommendations.

NTSB Accident reports available to educate/defend against Wire Strike:

☑️ WPR13GA128
☑️ WPR12LA259
☑️ CEN13FA295