



International Helicopter Safety Team

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A Call for Action by Helicopter Owners

In recent years, recurrent media campaigns on helicopter accidents have focused the public's attention on helicopter safety, generating a negative perception of our Industry with regards to safety which has always been, and will remain, of utmost importance for us.

While safety performance varies greatly with helicopter uses and operators, **every accident is of our concern as well**, and we must all act now to improve the entire industry's safety practices. We, the undersigned helicopter manufacturers, call upon all who operate our products to implement, along with our own recommended maintenance and flight operations practices, the safety enhancements recommended by the International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST).

Since IHST's inception in early 2006, teams in North America, Europe, Brazil, India, and Australia along with members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf have analysed hundreds of helicopter accident records to find the dominant causes and the strongest means of prevention. You can find reports on these studies at www.ihst.org. The IHST recognizes that each helicopter make/model and operation may have unique needs to improve safety, however, our analysis identified four areas to concentrate on in the effort to reduce accidents:

1. Safety Management Systems (SMS)
2. Training
3. Use of advanced Systems and Equipment like:
 - a. Flight Data Monitoring (FDM) Systems,
 - b. Health Monitoring Systems where such systems are available,
 - c. Use of Mission-specific equipment such as night vision goggles for night flying, and avionics to avoid controlled flight into terrain where the operator's frequent mission profile involves flight in poor weather and/or at night in difficult terrain, landing in unimproved, unprepared areas, etc.
4. Strict compliance with the manufacturer's maintenance program.

The IHST has produced toolkits to help you with SMS, training and FDM (see the "Safety Resources" tab on the IHST website). A brief summary is attached, along with a risk assessment tool that we recommend you use to see where to focus your efforts to **make sure the next accident is not yours**.


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Attachments: Summary of IHST recommendations
Risk Assessment Tool