



IHST

International Helicopter Safety Team
Our Vision: An International Civil Helicopter Community With Zero Accidents

HELICOPTER FACTS

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How Helicopter Pilots Die

The International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) is focused on reducing all helicopter accidents and it envisions an international civil helicopter community that experiences zero accidents. To reach this goal, the IHST is focused on educating all operators and pilots about how civil helicopter accidents occur and how they can be prevented.

Any type of accident is unfortunate, but an accident that results in a fatality is especially tragic. Analyzing multiple years of accident data, IHST safety experts have determined what type of operational occurrence contributes the most to helicopter accident fatalities. The data shows that Loss of Control figures into one out of every five fatal accidents with Visibility issues (Visual Meteorological Conditions into Instrument Meteorological Conditions, darkness, fog, glare, etc.) not far behind. Taken together, Loss of Control and Visibility problems contribute to one-third of all fatal helicopter accidents.

Most Predominant Occurrences During Fatal Helicopter Accidents

1. Loss of Control
2. Visibility issues
3. Fire (*post-impact*)
4. Wire Strike
5. System Component Failure

Other Frequent Occurrences During Fatal Helicopter Accidents

- Autorotation (*in practice & emergency*)
- Controlled Flight Into Terrain
- Fuel issue
- Abrupt Maneuver
- Icing

With the right safety attitude, and taking the initiative to apply risk reduction to the known risk, more helicopter pilots will be able to enjoy helicopter flights and stay alive.

Hazardous Attitude

Anti-Authority - *"Don't tell me what to do."*

Impulsive - *"Do something--quickly."*

Invulnerability - *"It won't happen to me."*

Macho - *"I can do this,"*

Resignation - *"What's the use?"*

Safety Attitude

Follow the safety rules. They are usually right.

Not so fast. Think first.

It could happen to me.

Taking chances is foolish.

I'm not helpless. I can make a difference.

The International Helicopter Safety Team (IHST) promotes safety and works to reduce accidents. The organization was formed in 2005 to lead a government and industry cooperative effort to address factors that were affecting an unacceptable helicopter accident rate. The group's vision is an international civil helicopter community with zero accidents with a goal to reduce the international civil helicopter accident rate by 80 percent by 2016.

More information about the IHST, its reports, its safety tools, and presentations from its 2011 safety symposium can be obtained at its web site at www.IHST.org and its Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Helicopter-Safety-Team-IHST/150529738351608>