



United States Helicopter Safety Team

Our Vision: A Civil Helicopter Community with Zero Accidents



“20% by 2020”

Monthly Report (July 2018)

The USHST, a regional partner to the International Helicopter Safety Team, set a goal in 2016 of reducing the fatal U.S. helicopter accident rate by 2020 to 0.61 fatal accidents per 100,000 flight hours, compared with USHST's baseline rate of 0.76 per 100,000 hours. That number is the average fatal accident rate for 2009–2010 and 2012–2014. The fatal accident rate has been trending downward over the past 15 years, but it has been below 0.61 only twice, and experienced a sharp increase in 2008 and 2013.

The USHST target for 2018 is to reduce the fatal accident rate to 0.65 (or lower) per 100,000 flight hours. Preliminary data for the first six months of the year show a rate of 0.71 per 100,000 hours.

On 03 October 2017, the USHST Safety Analysis Team (SAT) published a report which analyzed 104 fatal helicopter accidents that occurred between 2009 and 2013. The accidents were evaluated according to the taxonomy developed by the Commercial Aviation Safety Team (CAST) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Using the CAST/ICAO Common Taxonomy Team's (CICTT's) guidelines. The SAT Team members assigned each accident to a single CICTT occurrence category. The Top 3 CICTT codes were Loss of Control - Inflight (LOC-I), Unintended Flight Into IMC (UIMC) and Low Altitude (LALT). These three categories accounted for 50% of the fatal accidents analyzed and were responsible for more fatalities (104) than the remaining CICTT categories combined (96).

The U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (USHST) issued a report on its study in October, along with 22 recommended “safety enhancements” that address four general issues — Outreach, Training, Policy, Technology & Equipment, the development and successful implantation is intended to reduce the number of fatalities.

Helicopter - Safety Enhancements (H-SE)

Outreach – H-SE 19A – Safety Culture and Professionalism

Safety Enhancement Action: Government and industry to develop a definition of an effective safety culture that is more applicable and relatable to the day-to-day work of frontline helicopter professionals, and promote an understanding of this application-based definition to the helicopter community.

For more information about all of our Helicopter – Safety Enhancements please visit USHST.org.

The Top 4 industries targeted for OUTREACH will be Personal/Private, Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA), Commercial and Aerial Application. These four categories represented 59% of the fatal accidents within the dataset. We will also have Special Emphasis on the Instructional/Training Industry and Infrastructure.

USHST's work sprang from its adoption in 2016 of an approach to accident analysis that closely followed efforts by CAST and the General Aviation Joint Steering Committee (GAJSC), which were operating under their own data-driven processes to develop risk-reduction plans.

Days since last Fatal Helicopter Accident:

10

ERA18FA187



**USHST
iFLYSAFE**

The U.S. helicopter industry just endured the worst ten-day stretch of fatal accidents observed since late 2012. Five fatal helicopter accidents occurred from June 29 to July 8, 2018, a pace of one fatal accident every other day for over a week. Investigations take time, so the underlying cause of each case will not be known for some time. However, there is one thing we know with certainty. None of the individuals involved in these tragic events woke up that morning thinking this would be their last helicopter flight. The series of fatal helicopter accidents is a reminder to our community. There is sometimes a fine line between a flight that ends uneventfully and one that ends disastrously.

We are still early in the summer with plenty of good flying weather in front of us. In the wake of this recent surge in fatal accidents, let us take some time to think through how we can make sure the rest of the summer is spent with enjoyment rather than grief.

1. Review your basic procedures. The simple, mundane practices are often what keep us safe.
2. Think through what actions you would take for various aircraft emergencies.
3. Consider what effect summer temperatures will have on the performance and limitations of your aircraft.
4. Contemplate what factors may be subtly building up your cumulative fatigue. Days in the summer are long, often resulting in more activity and less sleep.
5. Practice real time risk management, even with small decisions. Make a habit of mentally asking yourself, "What could go wrong with what I'm doing right now? What could I do to make sure the worst case scenario doesn't kill me?"

As a community, let's all do our part to ensure the ten-day surge in fatal helicopter accidents does not stretch into a long-term trend.

Events Calendar:

USHST Annual Meeting

07 - 08 August 2018

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)
Prescott, Arizona

https://www.faa.gov/SPANS/event_details.aspx?eid=83054&caller=/SPANS/events/EventList.aspx?statecd=AZ

OUTREACH Initiatives: (Upcoming Events)	
Kansas City Regional Helicopter Safety Stand-Down	July 20 @ 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
Prescott Regional Helicopter Safety Stand-Down	August 09 @ 7:30 am - 4:00 pm
For a current list of OUTREACH events:	
FAA Safety Team (Helicopter)	FAA Safety Team Helicopter Events
Helicopter Association International (HAI)	https://www.rotor.org/Membership/AffiliateMembers/Calendar.aspx
Helicopter Safety Alliance (HSA)	https://helicoptersafetyalliance.com/