

Advice to the C-NLOPB: Recommendation 5

Recommendation

“It is recommended that the Regulator require the oil operators to develop procedures whereby workers should be required to familiarize themselves with the non-technical aspects of helicopter transportation and safety. Worker knowledge cannot be compelled, but should be clearly and publicly advocated by the Regulator, the oil operators, and the helicopter operator(s). Workers should make every effort to learn about helicopter flight issues and respond positively to any opportunities to achieve greater knowledge.”

Method

The Operator’s implementation group for this recommendation comprised logistics and public affairs personnel from Husky Energy, Suncor Energy and the Hibernia Management and Development Company (HMDC), with support from Cougar Helicopters.

The committee examined various options and decided to develop a video to tell the story of how flights take place to and from the offshore, highlighting the many layers of oversight involved, as well as the processes and procedures that guide helicopter transportation onshore and offshore.

Primary distribution will be via Internet and a dedicated website, nloffshoretravel.com (Link to go live on May 14th) Website users will have the option to stream or download video in high and low resolution versions. A number of DVDs will also be produced for distribution to offshore installations.

Discussion

We were cognizant to remain focused on the non-technical aspects of helicopter travel. For example, while we reference transportation suits and other safety equipment, we do not discuss them in detail. The prepared story list was shared with both the Operators’ Steering Committee and the C-NLOPB.

Key areas covered in the video include:

- Operating overview, environment, regulatory framework, basics of flight
- Maintenance & Prevention – processes, schedule of checks, systems
- Flight Dispatch – preparation, signoff process, alternate sites, pre-flight checks, monitoring systems
- In Flight Process / Offshore landings – requirements for landing, preparations, on board teams

The video itself has been designed in segments, so viewers can watch the whole video or view by segment (eg. Maintenance, Offshore Landing), similar to commercial DVDs.)

Advice to the C-NLOPB: Recommendation 5

The video is a Husky controlled document.

Because the information covered is generic in nature, we anticipate the video to have a shelf life of at least 2-3 years. The video will be reviewed by operators annually, and updated as required.

Conclusion

Operators consider that the Recommendation has been appropriately addressed and request that the CNLOPB advise if the action taken is acceptable to support formal closure.