

DROPS Forum workshop 5th December

Helicopter downdraft issues

Inspection items/ locations:

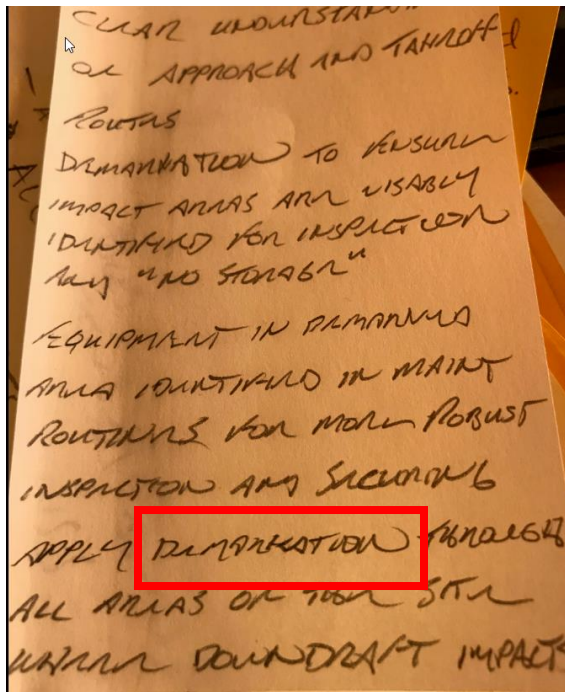
- Netting (perimeter)
- Lighting
- Anti-slip paint
- Luggage
- Fire equipment
- Loose cables
- Corrosion of support structure
- Stair-tred covers
- Fuel storage locations
- Temporary DROPS netting
- Loose container corners

Clear understanding of approach and take off routes

Demarcation to impact areas are visibly identified for inspection and “no storage”

Equipment in downdraft areas identified in maintenance routines for more robust inspection and securing

Apply demarcation through all areas of the rig where downdraft impacts



can't make out this word

Inspect chains/ guards and any temporary barriers to confirm that they are secured

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Helideck personnel dress check – all items of clothing/ PPE fastened and secured

Crane boomed down and all loads secured

Are the HCA involved?

- Specific resource of specialist experts
- Existing material/ checklist?
- Can the HCA add to their requirements of inspection

Helidecks FOD sweep because they are also used as:

- Sunbathing areas
- Drone landing pads
- Team photo studio
- Jogging area

Local maintenance tasks give rise to:

- Scaffolding structures
- Tools nearby on other decks and monkey island

CAP 437 review?

You must consider the flight path also

Pipe deck etc. loose materials KCAD/ BP had an incident overseas... we now have a planned flight path on approach but also checks for other areas

Low level – DROPS survey

Heavy weight – against bulk

Heads – very common in drilling rigs – cable drums

Review all items stored on rig accommodation roofs. All rigs use these areas to store spares of some sort. Often on dunnage and covered in tarps. This could be included in the rig's intermediate DROPS inspections (simon@rigsurveys)

Discuss the guideline with the Marine safety Forum

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Check areas exposed to downdraft to confirm what is exposed

Pre-travel: luggage/ load checks

Passenger loose items (glasses)

On rig – crew PPE (glasses with straps)

Helideck netting

Pop-up handrails

Fire fighting equipment (take out of the box)

Returning baggage being held near the helideck subject to downdraft

Consider combines wind and helicopter downdraft forces?

Consider the shape of some equipment to avoid huge flat surfaces that the wind and downdraft act on?

Time to carry out an effective DROPS sweep – often 20 minutes – perhaps inspection to be conducted prior to chopper – allocate the time.

- Toolbox talk
- Changed
- DROPS inspection is not enough

Drawings/ maps illustrating the physics of downdrafts from a helicopter on landing/ approach and departure

Helideck netting

Fire hose boxes

Bird scaring systems – seen a plastic eagle owl tied on to the helideck with cable ties

Fire team boxes and equipment

Loose items/ equipment on jack houses

Poor maintenance

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Create the same type of picture book (as DROPS) for heli-deck for weekly inspections, which will over time give a history of degradation of equipment. This is in addition to the pre and after flights.

Build up of ear plugs and blue plastic boot covers in gratings – especially in life-jacket exchange areas

Heli-deck inspection checklist:

- Fire gear boxes
- All fixtures
- All fittings
- Light fitting
- Safety signs

Helidecks:

- Birds/ bird waste materials
- Grease from objects that are maintained
- Paint chippings/ rust from the helideck
- PPE – hard hat chin straps