



# FIRE CREW FIREFIGHTER TRAINING

Procedures Handbook 4200

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

**TOPIC:** HELICOPTER SAFETY

**TIME FRAME:** 0:30

**LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION:** Level I

**BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVE:**

*Condition:* Given a written quiz

*Behavior:* The student will confirm a knowledge of the safety hazards, considerations and procedures associated with working around helicopters.

*Standard:* With a minimum 70% accuracy

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Writing board with markers/erasers
- Appropriate audio visual equipment and screen
- Slides/overhead transparencies for this lesson
- Video: "Helo Safe" (NFES 2090), NWCG
- Student Information Sheets 4204.5-1 and 4204.5-2

**REFERENCES:**

- CDF Aviation Management Handbook 8300
- CDF Fire Protection Training Handbook 4300
- CDF Training Procedures Handbook 4000

**PREPARATION:**

Helicopters are a very valuable tool for ground personnel, especially in the areas of water drops and troop movement. They can save a lot of work, but they are also dangerous. You must know the hazards and the requirements of working around these machines.



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## PRESENTATION

## APPLICATION

### I. TERMINOLOGY

**NOTE:** Hand out Student Information Sheet 4204.5-1, Helicopter Diagram

- A. Helitack, Fly crew
- B. Helicopter, Copter
- C. Helibase, Helispot, Helitack Base
- D. Helicopter Coordinator, Helibase Manager, Helispot Manager
- E. Main rotor, tail rotor
- F. Skids
- G. Seat belts and shoulder harness

### II. USE

- A. Reconnaissance, mapping (recon)
- B. Crew transportation (air lift)
- C. Evacuation, search, rescue
- D. Water drops
- E. Helitorch
- F. Sling loads

Video: "Helo Safe"

Display graphic  
4204.5-1



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### III. SAFETY

**NOTE:** Hand out Student Information Sheet 4204.5-2, Be Alert and Stay Alive Around Helicopters

- A. Crew transport operations – when approaching or departing aircraft
  - 1. Follow instructions of the helicopter crew to the letter
  - 2. Get the pilot's attention and permission before approaching the helicopter
  - 3. Always approach or depart in a crouched position. Gusts of wind could cause the rotor blades to dip dangerously low to the ground
  - 4. Always approach so that you are in full view of the pilot, never from the rear of the helicopter
  - 5. Safety helmet will be secured with chin strap
    - a) If no chin strap, your safety helmet will be held securely in your hand to prevent it from being blown away and/or up into the rotors by the rotor blast
  - 6. Never approach or depart a helicopter from ground that is up-slope from the main rotor. When turning at a high speed or under bad lighting conditions, rotors are almost invisible
  - 7. Keep clear of the main and tail rotors at all times. Do not walk to rear of helicopter when entering or exiting
  - 8. Carry all long handled tools in such a manner that the handles will not be inadvertently raised into the rotor path
- B. Working or waiting around a helispot



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PRESENTATION	APPLICATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Stay at least 100 feet from helicopters at all times<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Unless you have a specific job that requires otherwise</li><li>b) Your presence can cause confusion and disrupt the pilot's concentration</li></ol></li><li>2. Do not face the landing or departing helicopter unless you are wearing goggles</li><li>3. Do not remain in an area that is constantly under the flight path of any helicopter</li><li>4. No smoking within 50 feet of the helicopter or fueling area</li></ol> <p>C. In-flight safety</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. No smoking in the helicopter</li><li>2. Use the seat belt and keep it secured until the pilot instructs you to leave the helicopter</li><li>3. Make sure all loose gear is held securely to prevent from being blown from the helicopter</li><li>4. Never slam the doors of a helicopter<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Door handles must be turned to close and secure</li></ol></li><li>5. Do not let any of your gear get in the way of the pilot or controls</li><li>6. Never throw ANYTHING out of a helicopter</li><li>7. Do not talk to the pilot unless necessary, particularly during take-off and landing</li></ol>	



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## PRESENTATION

## APPLICATION

### D. Hazards

#### 1. Water drops

- a) Can be up to 2000 Gallons
- b) If you can't exit drop area, assume drop position
  - 1) Lie facedown, head toward drop, hand on helmet, hand on tool, away from trees

#### 2. Sling loads

- a) Stay away from flight path

Administer Topic Quiz



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## ***SUMMARY:***

Helicopters are a valuable tool for firefighters. A safe working knowledge is necessary to prevent serious injury to firefighting personnel operating near helicopters.

## ***EVALUATION:***

The student will complete a written quiz at a time determined by the instructor.

## ***ASSIGNMENT:***

Review your notes and Student Information Sheets in preparation for the upcoming quiz. Study for the next session.