



A Textron Company

OPERATION SAFETY NOTICE

GEN-14-47
14 January 2014

TO: All owners and operators of Bell Helicopters

SUBJECT: LINES OR CABLES EXTENDING FROM HELICOPTER

This Service Directive is being released based on recent accidents/incidents that Bell Helicopter has been made aware of and continues to occur during the operation of helicopters with lines or cables that extend from the helicopter. This OSN supersedes OSN GEN-88-13.

Operating helicopters with unloaded long lines, cables that extend from the cargo hook, or rappelling brackets which are allowed to hang or trail in the slip stream, are considered hazardous. Several events have occurred due to cable contact with the main or tail rotor blades.

During long line or rappelling operations, all extended cables or lines should be retrieved and properly stored inside the helicopter before moving from a hover into forward flight. If it is not practical to retrieve the lines or cables, it is recommended that they be weighted adequately at all times to prevent them from entering into the tail or main rotor blades during forward flight. Upon completion of an operation, the helicopter should be flown to an area where a safe landing can be made and the line or cable removed and stored inside the helicopter. Make sure that adequate clearance is maintained between the end of the cable and the ground, trees, buildings, wires, or other obstructions when operating with a weighted cable.

If flights with unloaded cables that extend from the helicopter are required to be performed, care should be taken to reduce forward and descent airspeeds sufficiently to prevent the lines or cables from contacting the helicopter or the main and tail rotor blade systems.

Always make sure that limitations, as defined in the respective Rotorcraft Flight Manuals, are respected at all times.

For any questions regarding this letter, please contact:

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