



ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Logging Equipment Manager Dies in Helicopter Tail Rotor Strike



On November 20, 1994, a 43-year-old, male equipment manager (victim) died

as a result of walking into the rotating tail rotor of a helicopter at a snow-covered, isolated landing pad, which was serving a logging camp (see Figures 1 and 2). The equipment manager was in the process of moving from the helicopter to his parked truck to pick up his personal gear. He had just talked to the pilot about getting a ride to a nearby community. After the pilot told him he would be leaving in about ten minutes, the victim began to walk back along the starboard side of the helicopter boom. He then crossed underneath the boom and walked directly into the tail rotor located on the port side of the boom. The pilot heard a noise and saw the victim lying on the ground. CPR was performed on the victim for approximately 25 minutes. He was then declared dead at the scene.

Based on the findings of the epidemiological investigation, to prevent similar occurrences policy makers, regulators, and employers should:

- **Conduct a comprehensive review of safety practices related to aviation support activities at remote logging camps. The regulations, policies, and practices regarding "hot refueling" of rotary aircraft at remote sites should also be reviewed.**

In addition, based on the findings of the epidemiological investigation, to prevent similar occurrences employers should:

- **Ensure that, when possible, paths for passengers to and from an aircraft landing pad at a work site are clearly marked with colored flags, cones, or ropes. Safety information should be posted at all sites routinely used as landing pads.**
- **Ensure that all workers, who may be in the vicinity of aircraft, receive appropriate training (on a regular basis) related to ingress and egress safety, and other aspects of aviation safety related to ground operations.**

To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:

http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:

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