

Personal safety when working near helicopters

With the wildfire season in full swing and increased use of helicopters to suppress fires, transport cargo, and move personnel, I want to take a moment to remind you of several key safety concepts. By keeping these in mind, you will help provide for your own safety when you find yourself close to an operating helicopter or being transported on a helicopter.

- (1) Take responsibility for your own safety when you have questions, take the initiative to seek out and ask a knowledgeable helicopter pilot, manager, or crew person.
- (2) Helicopter pilots, managers and crew members are trained to provide for safe operations in and around helicopters follow their directions!
- (3) Never approach a helicopter unless directed to do so by the helicopter manager or crew person. Crouch and do not run when approaching or leaving an aircraft.
- (4) When working near or being transported by a helicopter, wear personal protective equipment, including a hardhat with chinstrap, nomex clothing (sleeves down and collar up), leather boots and leather gloves.
- (5) Passengers must receive a safety briefing prior to the flight.
- (6) Passengers enter and exit the aircraft as directed by the pilot or crew member.
- (7) Only helicopter crew members may load and unload tools, equipment and other cargo.

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