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AS-ANC

Date: September 3, 2024
Subject: ANC24LA079 Operator's SOP
Contact: Michael Neely, General Manager Alpha Aviation

In an email dated September 3, 2024, Mr. Neely was asked if the pilot should have done a wind circle/ reconnaissance flight over the landing zone to determine wind direction instead of a straight in approach? Mr. Neely said Yes, all pilots are trained to do reconnaissance of the landing zone prior to landing. Yes, a recon should have been completed instead of a straight in approach not only to confirm wind direction but to ensure they were within SOP limitations.

Mr. Neely was asked for and provided the following excerpts on wind limitation from their SOP.

Alaska Helicopter Tours Wind Limitation SOP:

Purpose: To define and explain procedures for wind limitations during tour operations.

Definitions:

Sustained wind: Wind speed measured by comparing indicated air speed (IAS) to ground speed for 5 seconds.

Weather Hold: All flights are postponed until weather improves. Weather will be monitored, and each tour will be determined "Go or No Go" prior to its scheduled departure time.

Full Cancellation: All remaining tours are cancelled for the day.

Wind limitation for tour flights (all airframes): Up to 30 knots sustained, or a gust spread of up to 15 knots. (Higher wind speeds are permitted during cruise flight as long as winds do not exceed the previous limits at the LZ.)

1. If a sustained wind over 30 knots or gust spread over 15 knots is encountered at a landing zone other than base:

- a. DO NOT LAND.
- 2. If a sustained wind over 30 knots or gust spread over 15 knots is encountered during flight:
 - a. The pilot is permitted to find a different landing zone and land as long as the new landing zone can safely be reached, and wind conditions are below the wind limitation upon arrival.
 - b. If the wind is still above the wind limitation upon returning to base, the pilot will cancel the next flight, and a Weather Hold will be activated.
- 3. If weather is forecasted to remain above the wind limitation past the last scheduled tour:
 - a. The pilot will contact operational control to request a Full Cancellation.
 - b. If operational control agrees with forecast, the pilot will notify the base manager, and all remaining tours will be cancelled for the day.