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Contact: Thom Webster, Robinson Helicopter Company, Sr. Technical Investigator

Mr. Webster provided information regarding the attachment point used for the supplemental restraint system during the accident flight. Figure 1 shows the accident helicopter, and Figure 2 depicts the components and their respective nomenclatures.



Figure 1. Accident helicopter



Figure 2. Airframe nomenclature

The C421-2 tube (vertical) and the C423-4 upper seatback support tube (horizontal) are part of the optional 5-point seat belt installation available for the front seats. The purpose of the C423-4 upper seatback support tube is to properly position and support the four shoulder harnesses. The purpose of the C421-2 tube is to transfer any downward loads applied to the upper seatback support tube to the C423-1 lower seatback support tube (standard equipment) in the event of a hard landing. It is not designed to sustain any side loads.

The C421-2 tube does not require periodic maintenance or inspection other than overall condition.

RHC does offer an optional interior hardpoint specifically designed for an additional safety harness attachment (KI-293) for the front seats, but it is designed to be used along with the standard (or 5-point) seat belts.