



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Adam Gerhardt
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 4/19/2022
Person Contacted: Klint Anderson (Chief Pilot, Vertical Vegetation Management)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA192

Narrative:

The individual noted above provided the following information via a telephone call. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

The Chief Pilot was requested by this investigator to review their operating procedures to ensure appropriate risk management protocols were in place or could be enhanced to prevent such fuel exhaustion events from occurring in the future. The Chief Pilot was very cooperative and stated that he would begin a brain storming effort with his pilots to make changes.

The Chief Pilot subsequently on April 26, 2022, provided a revised SOP reflecting enhanced fuel checking procedures during product loading.

#END#



Ground Personnel Training Manual

3. Make eye contact with the pilot
4. Confirm visual cue from pilot for total load amount in gallons by picking up drybreak (visual cues may be in the form of dry erase board, notebook, predetermined hand signals between the pilot and loader)
5. Hook drybreak to helicopter and turn on drybreak valve
6. Reset meter to zero
7. Turn on helicopter load valve
8. Monitor meter
9. Turn off helicopter load valve when meter reaches requested load amount
10. Turn off drybreak valve and unhook drybreak
11. Set drybreak down
12. Confirm no visual leaks from helicopter to include pesticide, oils, and fuel.
13. Make eye contact with pilot
14. Confirm ready for takeoff by signaling to the pilot with two thumbs up

Fueling the Helicopter

When fueling the helicopter you are now taking all the dangers of loading the helicopter with pesticides and adding in the factor of a flammable liquid. It is vital that you follow the process and steps in place to maintain a safe environment. The following steps are company procedure for fueling the helicopter:

1. Confirm no open flames, no smoking cigarettes, flying debris, or approaching persons or vehicles
2. Confirm visual cue for fuel from pilot by picking up fuel static ground
3. Turn on fuel pump
4. Connect static ground to aircraft
5. Remove aircraft fuel cap
6. Pick up fuel nozzle and begin fueling
7. Reference the pilots visual cue (a quick horizontal swipe of right hand and forearm) for when to stop fueling the aircraft
8. Set down fuel nozzle
9. Replace aircraft fuel cap
10. Remove static ground
11. Step down from helipad
12. Confirm all lines and hoses are clear from helipad and fuel cap reinstalled
13. Confirm no visual leaks from helicopter to include pesticides, oils, and fuel
14. Make eye contact with pilot
15. Confirm ready for takeoff by signaling to the pilot with two thumbs up

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11. Set drybreak down
12. Confirm no visual leaks from helicopter to include pesticide, oils, and fuel.
13. Make eye contact with pilot
14. Confirm fuel quantity ok with a hand signal to pilot, alternating the "fuel signal" (index finger and thumb) and the common "ok" hand signal. The pilot should look at the fuel gauge and then back at you with a head nod.
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