

SAFECOM 16-1006

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NOCA Aquatics was flying a mission to sling cargo loads into Firn and Skymo Lakes from the Diablo Lk/Colonial Ck helispot. As a Crew Member, I was flying with the pilot to Firn Lk where I was going disembark, attach the long line, and wait to receive an external load consisting of 1 Knack Box. Arriving at Firn Lk, we took a few passes around the basin to locate an LZ and identify a spot to drop the Knack Box. The pilot and I selected a landing spot on the S end of the lake in a flat area covered with heather and interspersed with basket ball sized boulders. The pilot touched down several times while I assisted in trying to align the skids on the most level ground between the boulders. After touching down for the final time the pilot dropped the power and I exited 81A. While I was latching the door the helicopter suddenly started to bounce and lurch. Unsure what was happening I looked to see if the tail rotor had hit something but this was not the case. Nothing was within 100ft of the rotor so I crouched next to the skid. Shortly after this, the pilot powered up 81A and the bouncing stopped so I got back into the ship and plugged into the comms. I asked the pilot what just happened and the pilot was unsure and said was going to shut down which the pilot did as we were talking. After shutting down we exited the helicopter and opened the cowling around the transmission. The inside of the cowling was splattered with oil and metal shavings were present. After this, we waited to be picked up by another helicopter operated by the vendor.