



# IHST

**International Helicopter Safety Team**

Our Vision: An International Civil Helicopter Community With Zero Accidents

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## *HELICOPTER FACTS*

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### **7 Preflight Tips That Every Helicopter Pilot and Operator Should Know**

Summertime flight operations have arrived in North America and Europe, and for helicopter pilots, this usually means an upward spike in accidents. When warmer weather arrives, helicopter operations and missions increase and the number of accidents rise right along with them. Sometimes, the best way to avoid an inflight issue is to establish excellent preflight procedures. To help reduce accidents, listed here are seven safety tips from the International Helicopter Safety Team ([www.IHST.org](http://www.IHST.org)) that every helicopter pilot and operator should follow before the rotors spin.

#### **To improve Preflight “awareness”:**

- If you do a preflight on the same aircraft routinely, vary the angle from which you inspect components to avoid missing something due to “blind spots.”
- Consistently document all maintenance discrepancies to allow other pilots and maintenance personnel to see trends.
- Always review the previous (several) days of maintenance entries.

#### **To instill Professionalism in flying:**

- Regularly and loudly preach that deviations from Manual procedures and policies will not be tolerated. [A tie-in to FOQA type (satellite tracking, etc.) flight monitoring should be made – in more of a reminding way as opposed to a threatening manner.]
- Encourage non-pilot flight crews to report unprofessional flying to management without fear of retribution.
- Document disciplinary action taken against pilots for unprofessional actions (intentional deviations from regulations or company procedures) and to include that information in PRIA requests from future employers.

#### **To better understand the past:**

- Review industry accidents during initial and recurrent pilot training with a candid look at professional vs unprofessional actions.