



SAFETY ALERT - #08-2007
HELICOPTER LONG LINE STRIKES HIGH-TENSION GUIDE WIRE
RELEASE DATE: FEBRUARY 5, 2007

Function: Seismic	Incident Date: January 14, 2007
Location: Onshore	Location Detail: Seismic Field Operations
Incident Type: Near miss	Country and Region: Canada, NE Alberta

Description of Incident:

A 350B2 Helicopter was deploying seismic equipment using a 150-foot long line along highway 47, north of Robb, Alberta. The pilot was flying southwesterly and had completed two of five bag drops northeast of the incident site. After releasing the second of the five bags, the pilot noted the power line to the north of his position. The pilot proceeded to gain elevation while flying southwestward, for the next bag drop. As the pilot crossed the highway, the long line encountered an unmarked high-tension guide wire supporting a transition of the power line. The pilot was then forced to activate the emergency release as the aircraft long line struck the guide wire. The pilot regained control of the aircraft and then noted the supported power pole had split and fallen to the ground. The pilot then activated the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and flew back to staging.

Recommendations and Outcomes:

- Hazard for the aircraft and aircrew should be identified on a hazard map and should be included in safety meetings. In addition, personnel working on the ground should assist the pilot by visually identifying hazards and marking them accordingly.
- Pilots will participate in worksite hazard analyzes and communication.
- When aircrew change out for regular rotation, departing aircrew to brief arriving aircrew on project procedures and review any change(s) in work site hazard analysis, this is to be documented.
- Orientations for aircrew new to site are mandatory. Arriving aircrew must check into crew office before entering job site for briefing and / or job site orientation.
- Helicopter flight paths arranged to reduce the potential for low altitude encounters with overhead lines.

Additional Incident Information:

- The power line enters the highway right-of-way from the cut line constructed for the power line right-of-way.
- The receiver line (R171) crosses highway 47 just before the power line enters the highway right-of-way.
- The unmarked high-tension guide wire supporting the transition of the power line crosses the highway.

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