

**Today's discussion is from the  
Aviation Category.**



Scenarios are situations that can arise on a Wildland Fire or Aviation incident and are meant to add a realistic setting for the application of Today's Safety Discussion.

**WORKING WITH HELICOPTER DROPS**

Consider the following questions when you have a helicopter with a bucket working in your area:

If the helicopter is a Type 1 increase the distance of standby place from the drop zone. Use helicopter drops to knock down or secure a fire area that poses a direct imminent threat to escaping control lines or climbing up ladder fuels.

- Do you have good communications?
- Does the pilot have a clear understanding of the target?
- Are trees and snags in the drop zone?
- Are ground crews clear of the area?
- What are the winds doing?
- What is the turnaround time for the helicopter?
- Are people on the ground aware of the effects of the helicopter's rotorwash?
- Give feedback to the pilot about drop accuracy. Be honest and constructive.
- Be aware that helicopter performance capabilities may be significantly reduced at high altitudes and/or high temperatures.

References:

[Incident Response Pocket Guide](#) (pg 61)

---

**Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.**

**ONLINE** | MAIL: 6 Minutes For Safety Task Group • 3833 S. Development Ave • Boise, ID 83705 | FAX: 208-387-5250

**6 Minutes Home**