

Rapid Lesson Sharing



Event Type: Rotor Strike

Date: September 2011

Location: Nevada

Narrative:

On August 26, at 13:50 while performing a crew shuttle on the Jumbo Fire, a dolmar along with 5 other hand tools were loaded into the external cargo basket of a type III helicopter. When the dolmar was placed into the basket, a round saw file that was wedged between the bar oil and fuel container of the dolmar became dislodged and the file remained hanging from the basket. The file was noticed and removed from the dolmar and the basket. When the file was discarded from underneath the rotor disk area the file struck a main rotor blade. Upon notification, the pilot then shut the helicopter down. Once the helicopter was completely shut down the helitack crew member informed him of the specific events that had occurred. The pilot examined the rotor system and identified the area of the leading edge of main rotor blades where the object hit.

Lessons:

Inspect all equipment before loading into any aircraft.

Never throw or toss anything around an aircraft.

Slow down and take the time to complete the task at hand safely and accident free.

Successes

The mishap was immediately recognized and dealt with.

The lesson was written up and shared on a national scale.

Submitted by:

Crewmember

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Helispot



Rotor Damage