

SAFETY AROUND HELICOPTERS

APPROACHING OR LEAVING A HELICOPTER



Do not approach or leave without the pilot's visual knowledge. Keep in pilot's field of vision at all times. Observe Helicopter Safety Zones (see diagram right)



On sloping ground always approach or leave on the downslope side for maximum rotor clearance.



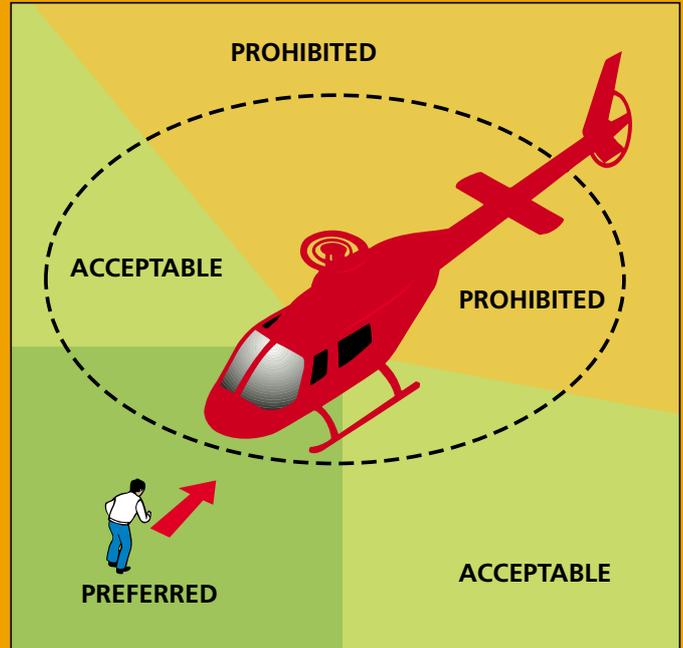
If blinded by swirling dust or grit, STOP – crouch lower, or sit down and await assistance.



If disembarking while helicopter is at the hover, get out and off in a smooth unhurried manner.



Do not approach or leave a helicopter when the engine and rotors are running down or starting up.




Proceed in a crouching manner for extra rotor clearance. Hold onto hat unless chin straps are used. Never, never, reach up or chase after a hat or other articles that blow away.



Carry tools, etc, horizontally below waist level – never upright or on the shoulder.

LANDING, TAKE-OFF AND LOADING OPERATIONS



Keep helipad clear of loose articles – water-bags, ground-sheets, tins, etc. Secure other gear from effects of rotor wash.



When transporting personnel, loading staff should ensure that:

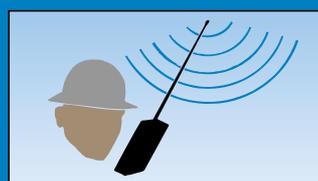
- Passengers are briefed as above
- They are grouped together and well back at side of landing zone
- They face away from helicopter during take-off and landing
- Each person looks after their own gear
- They are paired off and ready to board in turn as soon as the pilot gives the signal



When directing pilot for landing, stand with back to wind and arms upraised.



After hooking up cargo sling, move forward and to the side to signal pilot. Ensure sling is not across skid. Never ride on sling.



When directing pilot by radio, remember that he or she may be too busy to give an acknowledgment.



Fasten and adjust seat belt on entering helicopter and leave it fastened until pilot signals to get out.