



HELICOPTER FACTS

Contact: Tony Molinaro
tony.molinaro@faa.gov or (847) 294-7427

4 Pillars of Personal Safety Management for a Helicopter Pilot

The U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (www.USHST.org) has a vision of an industry of with zero accidents and a very strong vision of an industry with zero fatal accidents. But the abstract concept of “zero accidents” needs to be personalized by helicopter pilots and other helicopter operations personnel in order to achieve this. Each pilot needs to ask, “Is ‘zero accidents’ an achievable goal for me today?” Each pilot needs to make it a personal task. Don’t rely on safety personnel being the only ones to carry the safety banner.

For 99.74 per cent of U.S. pilots, zero accidents are already a reality. For example, between March 2015 and February 2016, 41,598 pilots flew helicopters and there were 115 accidents. That means 41,483 of 41,598 pilots **did not** have an accident - - zero accidents for these 41,483 pilots. The vision can be realized and it can be supported by these four pillars of safety:

Safety Policy – A policy of safety must be a core value for every pilot. “In every action I take, safety is my core responsibility. Don’t get hurt or hurt others.”

Safety Management – Never cut corners nor take unnecessary risks. Use a risk management checklist. Establish and use your own “personal minimums.”

Safety Scrutiny – Always try to learn from your mistakes and others’ mistakes. Look closely at your actions and the actions of others. What can you do to be better?

Safety Promotion – Do the safe thing even when no one is watching. Focus on completing accident-free operations every day.