



# HELICOPTER SAFETY NEWS

Feb. 2017

## U.S. Helicopter Accident Rate Continues Downward Trend During 2016

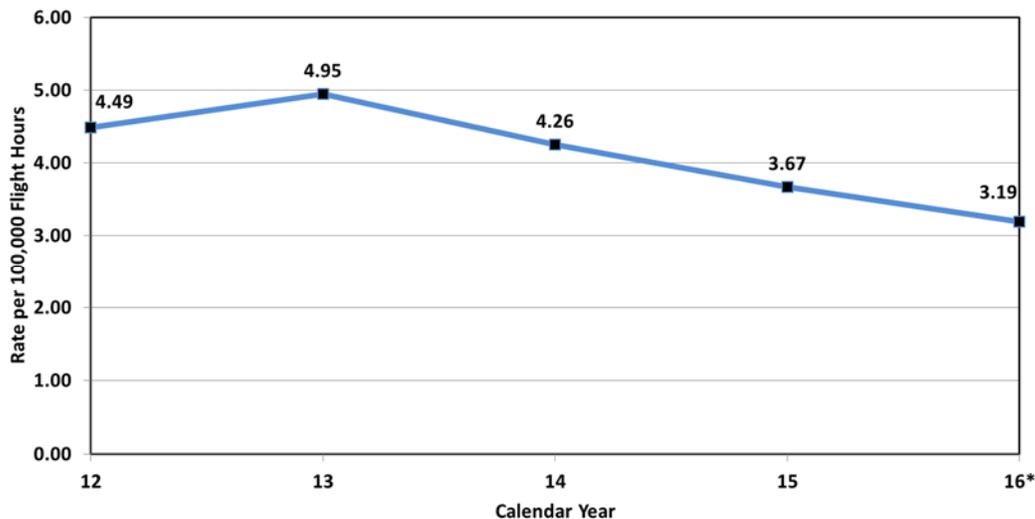
*Fatal Accident Rate Also Remains Low*

WASHINGTON DC – Accident rates for the U.S. civil helicopter industry were pushed downward as safety lifted upward during 2016. Preliminary data shows that the 2016 accident rate was 3.19 per 100,000 flight hours, compared to an accident rate in 2015 of 3.67.

This 13 percent decrease continues a downward trend in helicopter accidents since 2013 and maintains an improving safety record for the industry. The fatal accident rate remained statistically the same year-over-year, but was considerably lower than the 2016 goal set by the United States Helicopter Safety Team ([www.USHST.org](http://www.USHST.org)).

	<u>Total Accident Rate</u>	<u>Fatal Accident Rate</u>	<u>2016 Goal</u>
2016	3.19	0.51	0.73
2015	3.67	0.52	
2014	4.26	0.65	
2013	4.95	1.02	

U.S. Helicopter Accident Rate



Comparing 2016 with 2013 (when the USHST industry-government partnership was created), total civil helicopter accidents have decreased by 27 percent and fatal accidents have been cut by 43 percent.

#### Total U.S. Accidents

2013:	<b>146 accidents</b> , 30 fatal accidents, 62 fatalities	
2014:	<b>138 accidents</b> , 21 fatal accidents, 37 fatalities	
2015:	<b>121 accidents</b> , 17 fatal accidents, 28 fatalities	<i>compared to 2013:</i>
2016:	<b>106 accidents</b> , 17 fatal accidents, 29 fatalities	<u><i>27% decrease in accidents</i></u>

Reducing fatal accidents even further is a central USHST aim. From 2016 through 2019, the USHST is focusing major attention on reducing fatal accidents within the U.S. civil helicopter community. The industry-government partnership is targeting a reduction by 2019 to 0.61 fatal accidents per 100,000 flight hours. The fatal accident rate goal for 2016 was 0.73 or lower, and for 2017, it is 0.69.

*Data for 2016 is preliminary and there is potential for at least two more adjustments to the annual rates. In March 2017, the FAA's next Aerospace Forecast will be released and an adjustment could be made if the estimated 2016 flight hours shown in the 2017 forecast are different than the 2016 forecast. A final adjustment could occur after September 2017 when the FAA's 2016 General Aviation and Part 135 Activity Survey publishes data based on rotorcraft flight hours received from operators. It should be noted that in recent years, the FAA Forecast of U.S. rotorcraft flight hours has been within two to three percent of the flight hours published in the annual GA and Part 135 Survey, so adjustments to the rates are anticipated to be minimal.*

More information about the USHST, the International Helicopter Safety Team, its reports, safety tools, Reel Safety audio-visual presentations, and YouTube safety videos can be obtained at its web site at [www.IHST.org](http://www.IHST.org) and on the IHST Facebook page.

**Safety is Our 1<sup>st</sup> Priority**