

# COS SAFETY SHARE

## WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

### HELICOPTER OPERATIONS - ROTOR WASH HAZARD

#### What happened?

During helicopter operations on a support vessel which was stationed outside of the 500m safety zone, a rotor wash from a helicopter caused the protective lid of the helo restart box weighing 21.3 lbs. to lift and fall approximately 75 ft. into the water on the starboard side of the vessel. Per normal operations, no personnel were in the vicinity of the helideck during helicopter final approach.

#### What went wrong?

The box cover that was affected by the rotor wash was not adequately secured.

#### Why did it happen?

The investigation identified multiple opportunities for the organization to learn from past internal and external similar events. Despite repeated risk assessments, risk reviews, deep dives etc. Neither Operator, the Support Vessel Contractor, or the Aircraft Operator identified rotor wash as a significant hazard.

#### What areas were identified for improvement?

The pre-arrival inspection for helicopter operations needs to be specific and sufficient to cover the hazard identified from a process hazard analysis.

Aviation Risk is predominantly focused on aircraft crash, and the threat of hazardous rotor wash has not been included in any formal risk assessment.

Multiple leadership teams missed opportunities to learn from previous internal and external events, and improvements in industry practices.

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