

HELIDECK INCIDENTS

ALERT 11-21

WHAT HAPPENED:

Two events have recently occurred offshore involving secured items becoming dislodged due to the helicopter induced downwash from the rotor blades. The incidents are summarized as follows:

- 1) The Helicopter Landing Officer (HLO) and helicopter pilots observed a 'red object' flying toward the rotor blades. The helicopter completed its landing safely and was immediately powered down for inspection. Further investigation discovered the 'red object' was one of the rig's fire hose reel covers that was initially secured with Velcro. The cover became dislodged under the rotor blade downwash associated with helicopter's landing. The cover was fitted originally with Velcro from the manufacturer. A secondary retention fastening has now been added to enhance the security of the covering.
- 2) Upon arrival of the helicopter, the rig's helideck exit stairwell signage became dislodged and fell approximately 20m to the main deck. The sign's rivets and mounting plate were found to be significantly corroded. This corrosion resulted in the sign becoming dislodged when exposed to the down draft created by the rotor blades.

Hose Reel Cover



Location of Exit sign



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS/LESSONS LEARNED:

Regular inspection of facility structures and equipment in proximity to the helideck and in way of helicopter approach paths should be performed to verify satisfactory material condition of components exposed to down draft effects.

Identify opportunities to improve equipment layout and associated arrangements such as, but not limited to, the fastening methods for covers and other structures subject to weathering effects (UV, Salt, water)

Ensure the helipad/helideck and adjacent areas are inspected during hazard hunts before landing and takeoff.

Conduct inspections of helipad, helideck, and adjacent areas to identify potential dropped objects or other items that could come loose under the force of airflows created by helicopter rotors.

Engage HLO to provide landing safety instruction to other personnel designated to assist with facility helicopter operations.