

Crate Lid Dislodged Overboard During Heli Ops

SAFETY ALERT

Description of incident:

During helicopter operations on a UKCS drilling rig, a 3mx3m wooden crate lid weighing approximately 40kg, dislodged from a hose transport crate and blew overboard. While no personnel were in the area, the event highlights the risks associated with storage near helidecks.

Key Learnings:

- **Securing Mechanisms Matter:** Factory-installed plastic banding and screws, originally intended for transport, can degrade over time due to environmental exposure, making them inadequate to withstand wind and helicopter downdrafts.
- **Environmental Forces:** Weather, wind and rotor downwash amplify the risk of unsecured items becoming Foreign Object Debris.
- **Storage and Security:** Evaluate storage areas near the helideck for suitability, ensuring they are used only for essential items. Relocate non-essentials elsewhere and secure any necessary items with approved mechanisms to withstand environmental stresses.
- **Regular Inspections:** Conduct routine checks of these securing systems, to identify and address potential risks.
- **Increase Awareness:** Identify hidden Foreign Object Debris risks by raising awareness about items or equipment that might not typically be recognized as a potential hazard.



Crate containing air blower hose.
Note banding marks on right hand side and bottom left of crate



Crate storage on port wing deck showing left hand crate missing lid and right-hand (previously opened) crate with lid secured by use of ratchet straps.

DISCUSS

What Process do you have in place to ensure all items around your helideck are properly inspected and secured to withstand environmental and operational forces?