

Helicopter Passenger Briefing and PPE

Pilot or designated helitack personnel must brief all passengers prior to flight.

PPE

- Flame resistant clothing (long-sleeved shirt and pants, or flight suit).
- Approved helicopter flight helmet, or hardhats for fire crew transport from managed sites.
- All-leather boots.
- Hearing protection.
- Eye protection.
- Flame resistant or leather gloves. (Gloves should fit snugly, with adequate dexterity, to enhance operation of seat belts and emergency exits.)

Approach and Departure

- Stay clear of landing area during approach/departure.
- Always approach/depart from the downslope (lower) side as directed by pilot/helitack personnel.
- Approach/depart helicopter in a crouch position.
- Do not run.
- Keep in pilot's view at all times.
- Do not reach up or chase after loose objects.
- Never approach the tail section of the helicopter.
- **NO SMOKING** within 50 feet of the aircraft.

Tools and Equipment

- Secure light/loose items awaiting transport.
- Assign personnel for carrying tools and equipment to and from helicopter.
- Carry tools and long objects parallel to the ground, never on shoulder.
- All tools and equipment loaded/unloaded by qualified personnel.
- Portable radios turned off.

Helicopter Doors

- Location and how to operate.

Helicopter Seat Belts

- Buckle function and lap/shoulder strap fitting adjustments for all passengers.

In-Flight Discipline

- Follow pilot instructions.
- Loose items inside of aircraft secured and manageable.
- All baggage secured in aircraft or cargo compartment.
- No movement inside aircraft once seated.
- Never throw objects from the helicopter.
- Keep clear of the flight controls at all times.
- Unbuckle only when directed to do so by pilot or helitack.
- Wait for helitack personnel to open/close doors.
- Know location of first aid kit, survival kit, fire extinguisher, emergency locator transmitter (ELT), fuel and battery shutoff switch location and operation, and radio operation.

In-Flight Emergency Procedures

- Emergency exit location and how to operate.
- Follow instructions of pilot/helitack personnel.
- Snug seat belt and shoulder harness (know how to operate); secure gear.
- Emergency seating positions:
 - Forward-Facing Seat:
 - Press your lower torso firmly against the seat back.
 - Lower your chin to chest. Grip the seat edge with your hands or place them under your legs.
 - Do not grasp the restraint harness.
 - Rear-Facing Seat:
 - Same as forward-facing seat except place your head back against the head rest or bulkhead.
 - Side-Facing Seat:
 - Lean toward the front of the aircraft and brace your upper torso and head against whatever might be contacted, or move the head in the direction of impact to reduce flailing.
- Move clear of the aircraft only after rotor blades stop or when instructed by the pilot or helicopter crew.
- Assist injured personnel.
- Assess situation, remove first aid kit, survival kit, radio, ELT, and fire extinguisher. Render first aid. Attempt to establish contact.