



SAFETY ALERT

Marking Heliports Out of Service

No. 2013-2706

Date: June 27, 2013

Issued By: Gary Wetzel EH&S Specialist

Apache Corporation, Gulf Coast Region

Subject: Marking Heliports Out of Service

Placing a platform heliport out of service requires pre-planning and notification to several different entities that may be affected by the closure. Heliports are placed out of service or off limits to helicopter traffic for a variety of reasons. Crane repairs that cause the crane boom to be placed too close for landing, repair of heliport skirting, or the potential for static electricity generated by a landing aircraft during downhole tool deployment (explosives, perforating guns) often call for closure of the heliport. In addition to notification, the heliport must be properly marked to clearly designate it closed to helicopter traffic.

Notice To Lessees No. 2011 N-08 states in part:

“A white “X” marked diagonally from corner to corner across the helideck touchdown area is an accepted visual indicator that the landing area is closed. A temporary marker can be used for hazards of an interim nature. This marker could be made from vinyl or other durable material in the shape of a diagonal “X.” The marker (X) should be white with legs at least 20 feet long and 3 feet in width.”

Apache Corp. is recommending that you contact your Purchasing Agent in Lafayette to procure this item and would recommend that at least one tarp be purchased per Area. It should be vinyl or other durable construction, red background with white “X” and rope tie down holes on each corner.

Notifications should be made to your helicopter service provider (PHI, Bristow) at field base with enough lead time for dispatch to notify aircraft. Also, you should notify your BSEE district office.

Remember, that often times radio silence is mandated during heliport closings, plan your work accordingly.