

Proper Reporting of Weights on Helicopter Manifests

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Subject: Safety Alert; Importance of reporting correct weights on Helicopter Manifests

The following incident occurred on an Apache facility. There were no injuries or property damage associated with this incident. However, serious consequences could have resulted. Please review this Safety Alert carefully and take necessary precautions as outlined below to help avoid this type of incident in the future.

Incident

After hot loading passengers and bags, pilots were unable to hover at less than 95% torque. Helicopter had to be shutdown to audit passenger and cargo weights. Passenger and baggage weights were found to be incorrectly reported on the manifest. The actual weights of the passengers and baggage were heavier than listed on the manifest.

Contributing Factors

- Passenger weights appeared to be estimated. When they were re-weighed, several passengers were actually 1-5 pounds heavier than listed on the manifest.
- Several baggage weights were very inaccurate. Baggage weights were found to be nearly 100 pounds heavier than listed on the manifest.
- Warmer weather makes it harder for a helicopter to create lift.

Preventive Actions

- While it is always important to report the correct weights on helicopter manifests, it is increasingly important as the weather becomes warmer.
- All passengers must re-weigh themselves and their baggage when preparing helicopter manifests. This will help to account for added items and normal weight variations.





