Rotorcraft Standards Branch
AIR-680

Monthly Accident Briefing

May 2020

By: AIR-682, Safety Management Section,
Rotorcraft Standards Branch
Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft FATAL Accident Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours

FY 2020 rate shown is limited to Oct – Mar. Awaiting adjustment of forecast FY2020 flight hours to account for flight hour reductions from COVID-19 pandemic.
Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft Fatality Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours

FY 2020 rate shown is limited to Oct – Mar. Awaiting adjustment of forecast FY2020 flight hours to account for flight hour reductions from COVID-19 pandemic.
Estimated U.S. Rotorcraft Accident Rate by FY 10 Year Lookback – Rates per 100,000 Hours

FY 2020 rate shown is limited to Oct – Mar. Awaiting adjustment of forecast FY2020 flight hours to account for flight hour reductions from COVID-19 pandemic.
## FY 20 – U.S. Registered Rotorcraft Event Counts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accidents:</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal Acc:</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities:</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Same time period, previous FY: 71 Accidents, 18 Fatal Accidents, 35 Fatalities

Data Source: FAA, NTSB Databases. Includes only events classified as accidents and does not include incidents. The accident numbers for each month of the Fiscal Year may vary from the previous monthly briefing based on analysis between FAA and NTSB databases for the specified month. The NTSB database may include accidents that were not reported to this office resulting in slightly different numbers.

### Estimated Rates by Month (per 100,000 flight hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accidents:</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4.38</td>
<td>1.71</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>1.82</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal Acc:</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>0.96</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatalities:</td>
<td>2.19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>5.28</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY 2020 rate data shown is limited to Oct-Mar. Awaiting adjustment of forecast FY2020 flight hours to account for flight hour reductions from COVID-19 pandemic.
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft
Cumulative Fatal Accident Count: FY18 - 20
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft
Cumulative Accident Count: FY18 - 20

Rotorcraft Standards Branch
AIR-682 Safety Management Section

Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft
Average Fatal Accidents Per Month, FY83-FY20
% of U.S. Rotorcraft Accidents with a Fatality (FY20, Oct-May)
U.S. Registered Rotorcraft
13 Month Rolling Accident Count
FY 20 – Total Accidents by Industry (Oct-May)

- **Personal/Private, 12, 23%**
- **Law Enforcement, 4, 8%**
- **Helicopter Air Ambulance, 4, 8%**
- **Commercial, 4, 8%**
- **Aerial Application, 4, 8%**
- **Unknown, 3, 6%**
- **Aerial Observation, 3, 6%**
- **Air Tour / Sightseeing, 3, 6%**
- **Business, 3, 6%**
- **Utilities, 1, 2%**
- **Patrol/Construction, 1, 2%**
- **Firefighting, 1, 2%**
- **External Load, 1, 2%**

**Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.**
FY 20 – Total FATAL Accidents by Industry (Oct-May)

- Personal/Private, 3, 23%
- Aerial Application, 1, 7%
- Aerial Observation, 1, 7%
- Air Tour / Sightseeing, 1, 8%
- Commercial, 1, 8%
- Offshore, 1, 8%
- Helicopter Air Ambulance, 1, 8%
- Instructional/Training, 1, 8%
- Business, 2, 15%
- Law Enforcement, 1, 8%

Due to rounding each Industry percentage, the overall total may not equal 100%.
FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

5-30-20  – Schweizer 269C-1, N9421P, Ozark, AL, Part 91, 1 fatal
            – Instructional/training, solo student flight
            – Crashed near Ozark-Blackwell field  
            NTSB: ERA20LA197

5-2-20    – MDHI 369E, N8375F, Houston, TX, Public Aircraft, 1 fatal, 1 serious
            – Night law enforcement search operation
            – Impacted unoccupied building and terrain  
            NTSB: CEN20LA167

4-24-20   – Overseas Aircraft Support UH-1H, N3276T, Mesa, AZ, Part 91, 1 fatal, 1 minor
            – Repositioning flight; witnesses report observing tail rotor separation in-flight
            – Rotorcraft spun then impacted the ground  
            NTSB: WPR20LA130

3-31-20   – Robinson R44, N107EH, Audubon, IA, Part 91, 2 fatal
            – Aerial observation flight for bird research
            – Wire strike during low-level flight, post-crash fire  
            NTSB: CEN20LA136

1-26-20   – Sikorsky S-76B, N72EX, Calabasas, CA, Part 135, 9 fatal
            – Passenger transport from John Wayne Airport; Special VFR clearance
            – Crashed in Santa Monica mountains, post-crash fire  
            NTSB: DCA20MA059
FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Aircraft Accidents

1-9-20 – Robinson R66, N450MC, Mechanicsburg, PA, Part 91, 2 fatal
– Personal use flight, night VMC; in-flight break up

12-26-19 – Airbus Helicopters AS350B2, N985SA, Lihue, HI, Part 135, 7 fatal
– Air Tour on island of Kauai, crashed, post-crash fire

12-25-19 – Bell 407, N663SF, Headland, AL, Part 135, 1 fatal, 2 w/no injuries
– HAA flight returning to base; a/c began abrupt roll while nearing helipad
– A/c crashed onto its left side
– Flight nurse and paramedic found pilot unresponsive

12-7-19 – Bell 407, N79LP, Gulf of Mexico, Part 135, 2 fatal
– Offshore flight between oil platforms; reported 10 min out but never arrived
– Main wreckage located at depth of 190 feet
FY 20 – U.S. Registered Fatal Rotorcraft Accidents

10-25-19 – Enstrom 280F, N280F, Adrian, OR, Part 91, 1 fatal, 1 serious
   – Personal use flight; low rotor rpm, then rapid descent  
   NTSB: WPR20FA016

10-23-19 – Robinson R44, N225JM, Las Vegas, NV, Part 91, 2 fatal
   – Personal use flight; impacted near Red Rock Recreation Visitor Center  
   NTSB: WPR20FA013

10-23-19 – Robinson R22, N7189D, Hebbronville, TX, Part 91, 2 fatal
   – Two R22s on business flight to spot and capture wildlife
   – Collided mid-air while operating 50-100’ ft AGL  
   NTSB: CEN20FA012A

10-17-19 – Bell 206B, N167AG, New Salem, NC, Part 137, 1 fatal
   – Aerial application flight; 22nd aerial application of the day
   – Struck power lines then impacted terrain  
   NTSB: ERA20FA012
## FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MFR</th>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Registered U.S. Fleet Size</th>
<th>Percentage of Total U.S. Fleet</th>
<th>Number of FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents</th>
<th>Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Airbus Helicopters</td>
<td>AS350 (H125)</td>
<td>915</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK117 (H145)</td>
<td></td>
<td>216</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC120 (H120)</td>
<td></td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC130 (H130)</td>
<td></td>
<td>263</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC135 (H135)</td>
<td></td>
<td>331</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE3130</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>&lt; 1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Only models that comprise at least 1% of U.S. registered rotorcraft are listed unless an accident has occurred.

*Fleet size based on analysis of rotorcraft on FAA registry as of March 2020*
## FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bell</td>
<td>206Bs</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>206Ls</td>
<td>559</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>212</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>407</td>
<td>773</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>412</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>429</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>505</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robinson</td>
<td>R-22</td>
<td>864</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R-44</td>
<td>1,667</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>R-66</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sikorsky</td>
<td>S-61</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S-76</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S-92</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Fleet size based on analysis of rotorcraft on FAA registry as of March 2020*
## FY 20 - US Rotorcraft Accidents By Model

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<th>Percentage of Total FY20 U.S. Registered Accidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brantly</td>
<td>B-2</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Helicopter Airways</td>
<td>S-58</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enstrom</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>480</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F28</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helicopter Guimbal</td>
<td>Cabri G2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiller</td>
<td>UH-12/H-23</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonardo (formerly Agusta Westland)</td>
<td>A109</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A119</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AW139</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDHI</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>715</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Category (all TCs)</td>
<td>HH-1/TH-1/UH-1</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OH-58</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>H-60</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schweizer Rotorcraft Services Group</td>
<td>269/300/TH-55</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott's Bell</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Fleet size based on analysis of rotorcraft on FAA registry as of March 2020*
U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (USHST)
5 Year Average Fatal Accident Count (CY)

Current as of: 6/1/2020

Jan - Feb | Jan - Mar | Jan - Apr | Jan - May | Jan - Jun | Jan - Jul | Jan - Aug | Jan - Sep | Jan - Oct | Jan - Nov | Jan - Dec
--- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
1.6 | 2 | 3 | 4.8 | 6.2 | 8.4 | 10 | 12 | 13.4 | 15 | 16.8 | 18.8 | 19.8

5 yr fatal acc count, avg 2014-2018
2020 fatal acc count
U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (USHST) 5 Year Average Fatal Accident Rate (CY)

By 2025, reduce the 5 year average fatal accident rate to 0.55 per 100K hours

CY 2016-2020 rate shown is only through March 2020. Awaiting adjustment of forecast 2020 flight hours to account for flight hour reductions from COVID-19 pandemic.

Current as of: 4/1/2020

Baseline 2014-2018

2016-2020 (In Progress)

2017-2021

2018-2022

2019-2023

2020-2024

5 Year Range

- 5 year avg fatal acc rate
- Goal avg fatal acc rate by 2025
U.S. Helicopter Safety Team (USHST)  
Key Fatal Accident Rate Markers (CY)

Current as of: 4/1/2020

CY 2016-2020 and stand-alone CY 2020 rate shown is limited to Jan-Mar. Awaiting adjustment of forecast 2020 flight hours to account for flight hour reductions from COVID-19 pandemic.