



OPERATIONAL SAFETY NOTICE

Date: September 2015
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Helmet Communication Cord Connection

Helmets are worn during helicopter operations to protect against head injury in the event of an accident. Typically configured for communication, the helmet requires that it be connected to an intercom system (ICS) or equivalent receptacle via a communication cord. In the event of an accident, an attached communication cord may impede the occupants' ability to egress from the aircraft.

During a recent accident at night, a pilot found himself submerged in water inside the cockpit of his helicopter. The pilot reported that when he pushed himself out of the submerged cockpit, his helmet pulled him back as the cord would not release from the ICS receptacle. He then took off his helmet, and swam to the surface.

Use of an intermediate "pig-tail" communication cord can help to mitigate this safety hazard. Instead of plugging the helmet communication cord directly into the ICS receptacle, the helmet cord is instead plugged into one end of the intermediate cord, while the other end is plugged into the ICS receptacle. The helmet communication cord is then able to release cleanly from the intermediate cord receptacle as it is pulled in the direction of travel during egress.

Fly safe!

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