



Flight Safety

Operational Safety Notice OSN2019-001

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AEROBATIC FLIGHT IS PROHIBITED

Aerobatic flight is strictly prohibited in ALL MD Helicopters, Inc. (MDHI) helicopters.

Title 14 CFR Part 91 Subpart D Section 91.303 defines aerobatic flight as “an intentional maneuver involving an abrupt change in an aircraft’s attitude, an abnormal attitude, or abnormal acceleration, not necessary for normal flight.”

A recent video found on the internet showed an MDHI 600N helicopter performing aerobatic flight during an airshow, including what appeared to be a loop. All aerobatic flight in the MDHI 600N is strictly prohibited as stated in the MDHI CSP-600RFM-1 Rotorcraft Flight Manual, Section II, paragraph 2-1 Flight Restrictions.

MDHI helicopters are not approved for aerobatic flight and they have not been designed to handle the rigors of aerobatic maneuvers. MDHI helicopters are type certified as normal category rotorcraft, and, as such, meet, at a minimum, a set of requirements related to performance, flight characteristics, flight loads, control surface and system loads, fatigue evaluation, design and construction, and operating limitations. These requirements do not address aerobatic flight and the stresses imposed on the aircraft during such maneuvers.

Operating criteria, maintenance checks and inspections, component overhauls and recommended replacement schedules, and the various inspections checklists are based entirely upon the approved operating envelope of the aircraft. Aerobatic flight exceeds the approved envelope and thereby negates the applicability of Chapter 4 and Chapter 5 of the MDHI Maintenance Manuals.

Fly safe!

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