

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Subsidiary of Textron, Inc.

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INFORMATION LETTER 214ST-99-13

TO: All Owners/Operators of 214ST Helicopters.

SUBJECT: BATTERY ENGINE STARTS

It has been reported that operators of Model 214ST have experienced "BLIND STARTS", when performing battery engine starts. A "BLIND START", is described as engine instruments dropping to zero during the start and then recovering to normal indication before the start is completed. This is **NOT NORMAL**. Pilots that experience "BLIND STARTS" should abort the start in accordance with the instructions in the Flight Manual to avoid the potential of an undetected engine overtemp and notify their maintenance personnel of the starting problem.

The primary cause of "blind starts" is **low battery capacity**. Refer to the Vendor Component Overhaul Manual BHT-214ST-CR&O-V.1 Chapter 24 and Electrical Standard Practice Manual BHT-ELEC-SPM Chapter 11 for Maintenance procedures for the aircraft batteries. Operators that experience battery capacity problems should consider shortening the battery maintenance interval to insure that the battery capacity is at maximum. Low battery capacity engine starts will result in premature starter motor failure.