

**OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE**

August 27, 2002

OSN 205-02-37
OSN 205B-02-10
OSN 212-02-39
OSN 412-02-25
OSN 412CF-02-05
OSN UH-1H-II-02-3

TO: All Owners/Operators of Bell 205, 205B, 212, 412, 412CF and UH-1H-II Helicopters

SUBJECT: Tail Rotor Blades 212-010-750- ALL , Inspection of

Bell Helicopter was recently involved in an investigation of a partial T/R blade separation on a Bell 412 aircraft. Approximately 19 inches of a tail rotor blade separated in flight, which resulted in complete separation of the Tail Rotor assembly and subsequent loss of control of the aircraft.

Preliminary investigation results reveal that the separation was due to cracking of the inboard skin of the blade, which subsequently progressed through the spar of the blade. The initial crack started in a sharp dent in the blade skin.

This OSN is written to remind operators of the importance of accomplishing a complete inspection of the T/R blades at specified inspection intervals. The blades must be clean in order to perform an adequate visual inspection to determine their condition. Maintenance Manuals and Component Repair and Overhaul manuals are to be consulted for damage limits and repair criteria as required.