

**OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE**

January 3, 2003

OSN 206L-03-44**TO: All 206L Series Owners/Operators****SUBJECT: TAIL ROTOR BLADES 206-016-201-XXX, PERIODIC INSPECTION OF**

This Operation Safety Notice (OSN) is issued to inform owners and operators of recent events affecting subject tail rotor blades.

Bell Helicopter Textron has received reports of two incidents in which a strip 0.500 inch wide along the tail rotor blade was torn off. Preliminary evaluation indicates that cracks started at the root end of the blade skin where the chordwise balance weight is riveted.

While the investigation is ongoing, Bell Helicopter Textron is recommending that each owner and operator pay particular attention in checking for cracks in the above mentioned area during the preflight check or scheduled inspection.

If cracks are found in the blade, it must be replaced before the helicopter is released for flight and Bell Helicopter Textron Product Support Engineering must be notified.

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Product Support Engineering
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