

Bell Helicopter **TEXTRON**

A Division of Textron Canada Ltd.

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12,800 Rue de l'Avenir
Mirabel, Quebec J7J 1R4
(514) 437-3400

OPERATIONS SAFETY NOTICE

June 18, 2001

OSN 407-01-10

TO: All 407 Owners And Operators.

SUBJECT: **Water Intrusion in Pitot System - 407 Airspeed Actuated Pedal Stop.**

Bell Helicopter has learned of instances where water has entered and accumulated in the pitot lines on the Bell 407.

In one case water in the system caused the airspeed indicator to read up to 50 KIAS with the helicopter sitting on the ground. It was reported that subsequent take-off resulted in the AAPS engaging before the aircraft reached an airspeed of 55 Kts. It is suspected that this condition is the direct result of the helicopter being exposed to rain and high winds while parked on the ramp.

The Flight Manual (BHT-407-FM-1, Section 2 NORMAL PROCEDURES, paragraph 2-12) states that the main rotor and tail rotor tiedowns, as well as the engine exhaust cover, engine inlet protective plugs and pitot cover shall be fitted if the following conditions exist:

- Thunderstorms are in local area or forecasted,
- Winds in excess of 35 knots or a gust spread of 15 knots exists or is forecasted,
- Helicopter is parked within 150 feet of hovering or taxiing aircraft that are in excess of basic GW of helicopter, and
- Helicopter is to be left unattended.

This OSN is issued to stress the importance for our operators to adhere to the PREFLIGHT and POSTFLIGHT CHECK procedures published in the Flight Manual. In this particular case the airspeed indicator showing an indication on the ground was cause for maintenance action before releasing the aircraft for flight.