

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
WASHINGTON, D.C.

ISSUED: August 28, 1980

Forwarded to:

Honorable Langhorne M. Bond
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D.C. 20591

SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

A-80-85

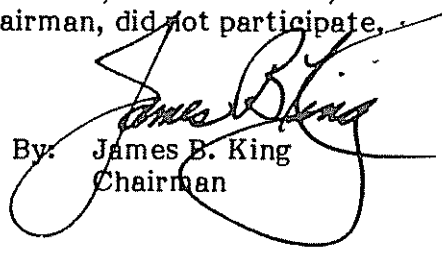
On August 26, 1980, an Aerospatiale SA-330 helicopter, N3596N, owned and operated by Petroleum Helicopters, Inc., of Lafayette, Louisiana, was inbound to Quonset Point, Rhode Island, with a crew of two and seven passengers. About 2 miles east-southeast of Quonset, the crew reported a fire in the passenger compartment. The onboard fire extinguishers were used to put out the fire, and the helicopter landed without further incident.

The continuing investigation of this incident has determined that wire number 1XP2BF contacted or shorted, and burned through hydraulic line 330A75 5311 02 causing a high-pressure hydraulic leak and fire. We believe that a similar incident occurred with a like model helicopter belonging to Petroleum Helicopters, Inc., about 2 years ago causing extensive damage.

To prevent a fire that might result from friction between electrical wires and hydraulic cables on the Aerospatiale SA-330 helicopter, the National Transportation Safety Board recommends that the Federal Aviation Administration:

Issue an emergency Airworthiness Directive for all Aerospatiale helicopter models SA-330 to inspect, separate, and secure electrical wires that are near hydraulic lines between fuselage stations 5295 and 5600. (Class I, Urgent Action) (A-80-85)

KING, Chairman, McADAMS, GOLDMAN, and BURSLEY, Members, concurred in this recommendation. DRIVER, Vice Chairman, did not participate.

By: 
James B. King
Chairman