United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Aviation Technical Alert

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Distribution: Aviation Operations
Subject: Static Line and Anchor Installation

There have been two recent incidents of the vertical static line cable stanchions in two different Sherpas being either installed incorrectly or a tension screw being significantly loose so as not to be properly secured. In one instance the stanchion assembly became detached from the floor track during a cargo drop but was kept from being pulled out the door by the vertical rod above the assembly, which is non-structural in nature.

In 2002 there were some problems with mounting bolts backing out of the horizontal overhead static line cable installed in a contract DC-3TP. When investigating this occurrence, discrepancies in attachment bolts and installations were found between all of the DC3-TPs. It was even noted that one of the overhead cables was installed backward in the contract aircraft.

Vertical static line cable installations are the same or very similar to the C-23A in the Twin Otters, Dornier and Casa. In the case of the stanchion that became detached from the floor, had the weight of a smokejumper rather than a cargo bundle been applied to the rod that kept the stanchion from leaving the aircraft, a total malfunction could have been the result. Please install these accessories carefully, and inspect daily.

Recommendation: When accessories that are as essential as the static line cable anchors are removed and re-installed, they must be in conformance with the STC or MTDC drawings, and installed by a certified mechanic. After removal or installation, an appropriate logbook entry shall be made.

Additionally, it is imperative that all static line cables be thoroughly looked at during every pre-flight inspection for security and proper installation.

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