

REF:	HSSE/Aviation/2017 - 01
ISSUE TITLE:	FOD / LOOSE ARTICLE HAZARD – MANAGING NEWSPAPERS AS OFFSHORE FREIGHT
DATE:	9 th March 2017
OGUK Directorate	Health, Safety and Environment
OGUK Owner:	Mick Borwell

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION:

- On an offshore helideck during freight unloading from an S92A baggage bay, torn newspaper became an airborne loose article and was blown around the helideck area.
- This is a repeat occurrence!

HAZARDS ENCOUNTERED:

- Newspapers delivered for airfreight wrapped in paper and banded (see photo below) is inadequate protection for exposure on the apron and helideck during hostile weather conditions in the UKCS.
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- The papers become wet and damaged during transit between the delivery freight area and final destination, which may also include fixed wing transfer via Shetland.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED:

- All freight delivered to the heliport for offshore helicopter transportation must be packed and documented in accordance with the latest revision of the Oil & Gas UK Guidelines for the safe handling and transportation of cargo to and from offshore locations.
- Had the newspaper circulated into the rotor controls or suspected as having been ingested into the engine intakes, these FOD events on the ramp or on offshore helidecks could have led to a helicopter shutdown and an aircraft inspection required; with the risk of an unserviceable helicopter on helideck.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

- In conjunction with the newspaper supplier introduce the use of hessian sacks to air transport these articles. The sacks should be tightly sealed using tape, not ti-wraps (see photo below).



- ❑ Use on-site tool box talks to raise awareness of these potential FOD events with freight and ramp teams and helideck teams. Highlight items of airfreight which are inadequately protected prior to being loaded into the aircraft.
- ❑ Share lessons learnt with all Oil & Gas UK members and Aviation Operators.

INFORMATION SOURCES:

Notice of this Safety Alert is courtesy of BP. If further information is required please contact David MacLean – BP Aviation Technical Advisor.

LINKS:

Keywords: FOD - High Winds – Inclement Weather – Helicopter Freight Loading and Unloading – Inadequately Protected Freight - Securing Method