

Safety Notice SN-30

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LOOSE OBJECTS CAN BE FATAL

Fatal accidents have occurred due to loose objects flying out of the cabin and striking the tail rotor. Any object striking the tail rotor can cause failure of a tail rotor blade. Loss of or damage to a tail rotor blade may cause a severe out-of-balance condition which can separate the tail rotor gearbox or entire tail assembly from the tailcone, resulting in a catastrophic accident. Accidents have also been caused by fuel caps, birds, and other objects striking the tail rotor. Before each flight perform the following:

- 1) Walk completely around the aircraft checking fuel cap security and tail rotor condition. Ensure no loose objects or debris in helicopter vicinity. Verify cotter rings or pins are installed in all door hinge pins.
- 2) Stow or secure all loose objects in the cabin. Even with doors on, items such as charts can be sucked out of a vent door.
- 3) Instruct passengers regarding the dangers of objects striking the tail rotor. Warn them never to throw anything from the helicopter or place items near vent doors where they could get sucked out.
- 4) Firmly latch all doors.
- 5) Never fly with a left door removed. (Remove only the right doors for ventilation.)