

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-08

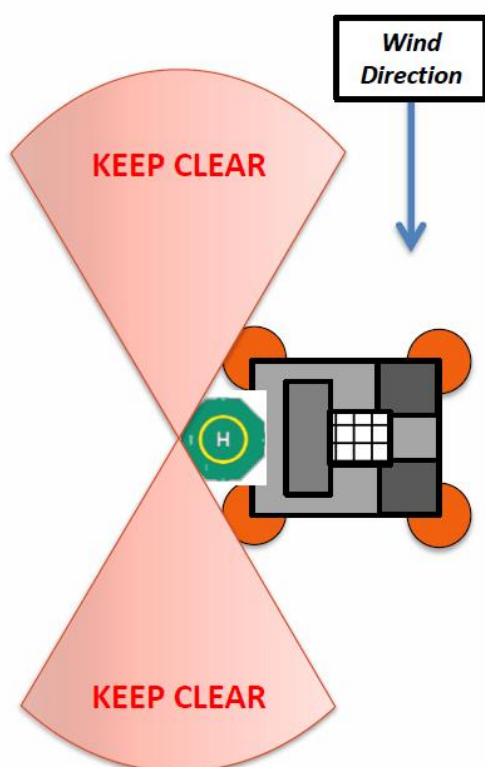
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Subject: Vessels Positioning

A helicopter aborted an approach to a fixed installation because a Supply vessel was positioned inside the 'go-around' and take-off flight path.



Why did it go-around?



Even though an engine failure is a rare and unlikely event, helicopters are always flown so that they can suffer an engine failure and safely 'fly-away' on its remaining engine. If a helicopter suffers a single-engine failure at low speed (like during the take-off and landing), then it needs to 'dive' on the speed and is likely to use all of the height between it and the surface to achieve this. Therefore, if a vessel is positioned within the helicopter's 'go-around' flight path then there is a risk of collision during a single-engine 'go-around'.

Recommendation:

For all offshore operators to be made aware of this incident and to ensure that the critical flight path is kept clear of all vessels during helicopter operations.

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