



# USHST

## United States Helicopter Safety Team



### Monthly Safety Report

### April 2024

The USHST is a regional partner to the Vertical Aviation Safety Team ([VAST](#)).

**USHST GOAL:** Reduce the 5 year average fatal US helicopter accident rate to **0.55 fatal** accidents per 100K hrs by **2025**

**USHST Vision:** A Civil Helicopter Community with Zero **Fatal** Accidents

**Safety by the Numbers!**

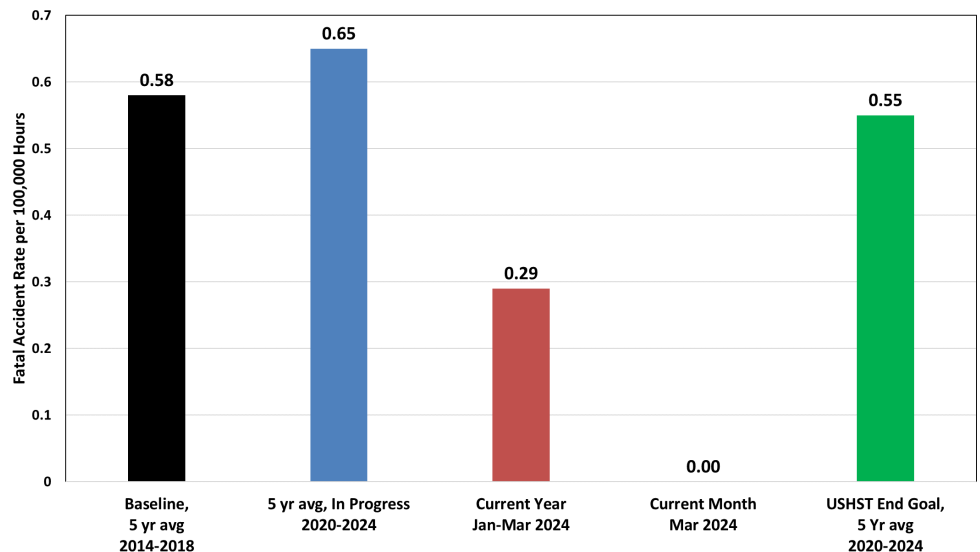
| Metric                    | 2020 - 2024         | 2019 - 2023          |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Avg <b>Fatal</b> Acc Rate | 0.65                | 0.69                 |
| Avg Accident Rate         | 3.8                 | 3.91                 |
| Year To Date              | Current Year (CY24) | Previous Year (CY23) |
| <b>Fatal</b> Accidents    | 2                   | 3                    |
| Accidents                 | 16                  | 15                   |
| Fatalities                | 9                   | 6                    |

### Average number of days between fatal accidents:

- 2020: 18 days
- 2021: 17 days
- 2022: 21 days
- 2023: 19 days
- 2024: 31 days

### Longest time between fatal accidents (past 5 yrs):

**107 days (2020)**



### Fatal Accident Counter

**55 : 13 : 56 : 56**

Days : Hours : Mins : Secs

Each year the U.S. helicopter industry safely flies approx. 3 million flight hours and **every** second of **every** flight must be handled with professionalism.



## Did "YOU" Know?

In the US there are **12,000 +** helicopters, **32,000 +** helicopter pilots and over **292,000** aircraft mechanics!

The USHST has identified the following industries for **OUTREACH**:

**Personal/Private,  
Helicopter Air Ambulance (HAA),  
Commercial and Aerial Application**

Your participation in joining our vision of zero fatal accidents is important to us. To determine how your interests best align with active USHST efforts, please click the link below to complete the form and submit.

[JOIN/FOLLOW USHST](#)



(2867 Members, 23 New)



### Helicopter Safety OUTREACH events:

- [USHST Podcasts](#) — Push to Talk with Bruce Webb: A Helicopter Podcast
- **NEW!** [National Agricultural Aviation Association \(NAAA\)](#) - ["Fly Safe Campaign for Wire Strike Avoidance"](#) [FAAST Link](#)



Safety Enhancement Quick List



**U.S. Helicopter Safety Team**

**Helicopter – Safety Enhancements**  
Our Vision: A civil helicopter community with zero fatal accidents

## [Helicopter - Safety Enhancement \(H-SE\) Details](#)

### [H-SE 2023-05, Training on effects of adverse wind situations.](#)

The goal of this H-SE is to better illustrate the hazards posed by adverse winds on rotorcraft performance, especially when operating at low airspeeds. As an example, similar, but unrelated efforts, have been undertaken in the fixedwing world around loss of control events and the use of Angle-of-Attack (AOA) indicators. Vertical flight operations at low airspeed are predictable when the air-circulation through the rotor system is able to maintain a steady-state. It can be visualized as a bubble of air circulating around the rotor system. If this bubble is disrupted, or "popped", a corresponding loss of lift can result. This creates a performance scenario that is not indicated by any instruments and is not able to be planned through a chart, but rather is managed by the pilot through a combination of forethought, experience, knowledge of wind directions and intensity around the aircraft, distance from obstacles and power reserves available. Given that it is not currently possible to provide rotorcraft pilots with an indicator that shows an impending loss of lift, this H-SE seeks to promote effective training solutions for pilot decision making and more effective risk assessment during operations.

**USHST PRIORITY Safety Resources:**

[Videos](#)

[Safety Apps](#)

[Original H-SE Summation Report](#)

See you next year!  
**March 10–13, 2025**  
Exhibits Open March 11–13

**VERT:CON**  
FORMERLY HAI HELI-EXPO  
Dallas 2025 | POWERED BY VAI



[NEXT WEBINAR April 11:](#)  
**Securing Advanced Air  
Mobility from Cyberattack**



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