

# Medical Device/Equipment ALERT

Ref. MDEA(NI)2007/32

Issued: 19 April 2007

For:

IMMEDIATE ACTION	
ACTION	✓
UPDATE	
INFORMATION	



**HEALTH ESTATES**

creating healing environments

	Section
<b>Medical Device/Equipment:</b> Helicopter landing sites	▶ ①
<b>Problem:</b> Loose debris impacting upon the helicopter.	▶ ②
<b>Action by:</b> Staff with special responsibility for Estates and Health & Safety.	▶ ③
<b>Action:</b> 1. Inspect helicopter landing sites and ensure that, i) landing lights and other equipment are secure, free from damage and ingress of water. ii) there is no loose debris within the boundary of the landing area. 2. Review operational policy / procedures and put in place a regular schedule for, i) inspecting landing lights and other equipment on the landing sites to ensure they are secure, free from damage and ingress of water. ii) a programme of thorough cleaning of the landing sites.	▶ ④
<b>Distributed by NIAIC to:</b> Chief Executive of each HSS Board Chief Executive of each HSS Trust Chief Executive of each Agency NIAIC Liaison Officers <b>For onward distribution see Section 5</b>	▶ ⑤
<b>Contacts</b> MOD and NIAIC contact for technical aspects.	▶ ⑥
<b>Feedback Requirements to NIAIC</b> None Required	▶ ⑦

This Alert is on our web site: <http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic>

## **1. DEVICE/EQUIPMENT:**

Helicopter landing sites

## **2. PROBLEM:**

On 24 Jan 07 at 1910 hrs a Sea King HAR3 Helicopter from D Flight of No 202 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth was delivering casualties to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee.

Upon landing at the Helicopter Landing Site (HLS) the aircraft was seen to be hit by debris from one of the HLS dispersal lights which had exploded below the aircraft.

It is not clear if loose debris hit the landing light or the light was loose which caused it to explode due to helicopter downdraft. Further investigation is being carried out.

The aircraft was subsequently shut-down and inspected for damage.

This comprised impact damage to one of the main rotor blades (MRB) and all three of the front cockpit windows.

The aircraft's damaged MRB was replaced in situ and the aircraft was then deemed serviceable for a single flight to base for further engineering work.

## **3. ACTION BY:**

Staff with special responsibility for Estates and Health & Safety.

## **4. ACTION:**

3. Inspect helicopter landing sites and ensure that,
  - i) landing lights and other equipment are secure, free from damage and ingress of water.
  - ii) there is no loose debris within the boundary of the landing area.
4. Review operational policy / procedures and put in place a regular schedule for,
  - i) inspecting landing lights and other equipment on the landing sites to ensure they are secure, free from damage and ingress of water.
  - ii) a programme of thorough cleaning of the landing sites.

## **5. ONWARD DISTRIBUTION TO:**

Please bring this notice to the attention of all who need to know or be aware of it. This will include distribution to:

- Liaison Officers
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Officers/Advisors
- Estates Managers
- Ambulance Staff and Paramedics

## 6. CONTACTS:

Enquiries to Ministry of Defence:

Dave Warren  
Squadron Leader  
ASG RW  
DII Role Mail Address:  
STC A3-OPSSPT ASG RW

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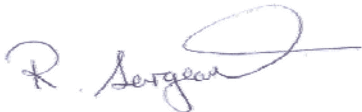
Enquires to NIAIC should quote reference number MDEA(NI)2007/32 and be addressed to:

Northern Ireland Adverse Incident Centre (NIAIC)  
Health Estates  
Estate Policy Directorate  
Stoney Road  
Dundonald  
Belfast BT16 1US

Tel: 028 9052 3868  
Fax: 028 9052 3900  
Email: NIAIC@dhsspsni.gov.uk

## 7. FEEDBACK:

None required



Robert Sergeant  
NIAIC Operational Manager

### HOW TO REPORT ADVERSE INCIDENTS

Adverse Incidents relating to medical devices, non-medical equipment, plant and buildings should be reported to NIAIC as soon as possible. Advice on how to report is given in MDEA(NI)2006/01. If you are in doubt about how to report incidents, please speak to your liaison officer or contact NIAIC using the telephone number provided. Adverse Incident reporting forms and an on-line reporting facility are available on the NIAIC website at [www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/niaic)

*Heath Estates is an Executive Agency of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety*