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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AVIATION MANAGEMENT**

Safety Alert

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Subject: Flight Helmets – Take Care of Them and They’ll Take Care of You

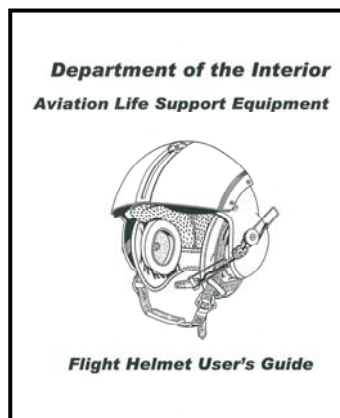
Area of Concern: Helicopter and Special Use Airplane Operations

Distribution: All Fire and Aviation Personnel

Discussion: A recent accident emphasizes the need to always wear a properly fitted and maintained flight helmet. All four rear-seat occupants of the helicopter pictured below were struck in the head by the main rotor blade. **All four survived!**



To help ensure that the flight helmets that you’re using are in the best condition possible, you should inspect them on a regular basis using the guidance in the DOI Flight Helmet User’s Guide, which can be downloaded at <http://www.oas.gov/oassafety/library/helmetguide.pdf>.



Will your flight helmet be ready to protect you when the time comes ?

The DOI ALSE Handbook addresses the requirement for DOI personnel to wear flight helmets and types of flight helmets that are approved, but it ***does not*** address how the user should take care of their helmet, what to look for to determine whether the helmet is serviceable, and what to do if you think that your helmet is not serviceable or needs repair. The DOI Flight Helmet User's Guide is intended to fill that gap.

The Flight Helmet User's Guide provides guidance on ***who*** should inspect the helmet, ***how often*** the helmet should be inspected, and is filled with photos of ***what to look for***.

Photos with **red borders** show deficiencies that ground the helmet and require repair before use.



Photos with **yellow borders** show deficiencies that should be repaired as soon as possible



Photos with **green borders** show helmet parts that are available through the NWCG National Fire Equipment System Catalog.



Use the DOI Flight Helmet User's Guide to keep your helmet fit for flight.

For additional information contact Steve Rauch, DOI-AM (208) 433-5073 or Gary Deide BLM (208) 387-5529.

/s/ Robert Galloway
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