

# Safety Message

## Loose items can be fatal

Issued 14 November 2018

Analysis of helicopter occurrence data has identified a number of accidents and incidents where loose items in the cabin have exited the helicopter and contacted the tail rotor. In some cases this has resulted in a complete loss of control of the helicopter.

Pilots and crews must ensure that all items in the cabin are securely stowed before take-off, even if operating with all doors fitted.

Passengers must be briefed on the dangers of loose items in and around the vicinity of helicopters.

Robinson Helicopter Company recently released a safety video concerning the dangers of loose items in and around helicopters.

**For advice, contact:**

The CAA investigation team: [investigations@caa.govt.nz](mailto:investigations@caa.govt.nz)

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