

Safety

ALERT

Crate lid dislodged overboard

Alert 25-1

WHAT HAPPENED:

During helicopter operations on a drilling rig located on the UK Continental Shelf, a 3mx3m (9.8 ft x 9.8 ft) wooden crate lid, weighing approximately 40kg (88 lb), dislodged from a hose transport crate and blew overboard. While no personnel were in the area, the event highlights the risks associated with storage near helidecks.



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

Securing Mechanisms Matter: Factory-installed plastic banding and screws, originally intended for transport, can degrade over time due to environmental exposure, making them inadequate to withstand wind and helicopter downdrafts.

Environmental Forces: Weather, wind, and rotor downwash amplify the risk of unsecured items becoming Foreign Object Debris.

A Safety Alert can consist of any type of health, safety & environment (HSE) notification or Near Miss/Near Hit alert. Proactive Alerts on jobs well done are also encouraged.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Storage and Security: Evaluate storage areas near the helideck for suitability, ensuring they are used only for essential items. Relocate non-essentials elsewhere and secure any necessary items with approved mechanisms to withstand environmental and helicopter induced loads.

Regular Inspections: Conduct routine checks of these securing systems, to identify and address potential risks.

Increase Awareness: Identify hidden Foreign Object Debris risks by raising awareness about items or equipment that might not typically be recognized as a potential hazard.

Reflection Challenge

What process do you have in place to ensure all items around your helideck are properly inspected and secured to withstand environmental and operational forces?