

Safety Notice SN-43

Issued: January 2015

USE EXTRA CAUTION DURING POST-MAINTENANCE FLIGHTS

A number of fatal accidents have occurred during flights immediately following maintenance. In several cases, the cause was incorrect or incomplete reassembly of the helicopter, and the error would have been detectable during a careful preflight inspection.

Even the best maintenance personnel can become distracted and make a mistake. Pilots should conduct an especially thorough preflight inspection after maintenance has been performed. If possible, speak to the technicians who performed the work, find out exactly what was done, and pay special attention to those areas. Professional maintenance personnel will appreciate the pilot's commitment to safety and will welcome an additional check of their work.

Any work done on the flight control system deserves special attention because a flight control disconnect is almost always catastrophic. During track and balance work, always climb up to the rotor head for a close inspection of the pitch link and control tube fasteners after each adjustment. Never rush or skip preflight steps.